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THE  
HISTORY OF ENGLAND,  
IN  
VERSE.

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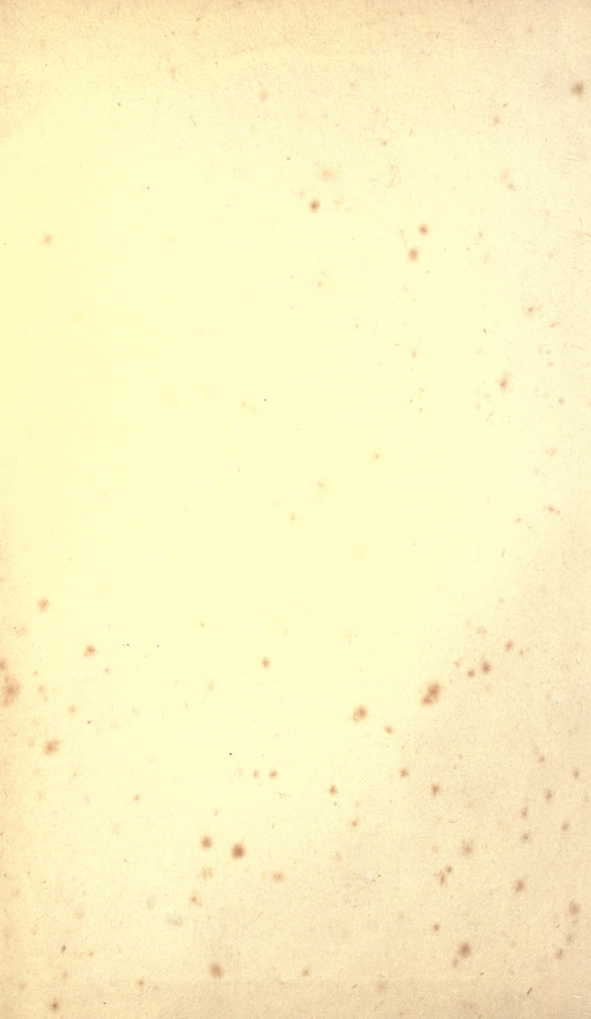
C. K. OGDEN







THE HISTORY OF ENGLAND  
*IN VERSE.*



THE  
HISTORY OF ENGLAND  
IN VERSE.

BY  
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## PREFACE.

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I HAVE endeavoured in the following little work to render the acquisition of the material facts of English History more easy and pleasant than it had heretofore been—for the benefit, not solely of Examination Students, but also of all those whose position in society demands from them a general knowledge of this interesting subject.

It is a matter of common observation that any bare isolated *fact* makes a far more lasting impression on the mind when clothed in simple *rhyme* than when drily detailed in *prose*. Nursery books, intended to teach children the rudiments of knowledge, are usually in rhyme: boys at school patch up, as it were instinctively, doggerel verses to commemorate the knotty points of their maturer studies; while, to candidates for the higher examinations, verse, however rough and simple, is an aid which has saved many an over-crammed brain from hopeless confusion.

It is, therefore, with a high appreciation of the value of rhyme thus applied that I have written in verse that agglomeration of facts the History of England.

In the "History of England in Verse," however, while all the important events are set forth as tersely and clearly as possible, the student will find, running throughout, that connection and sequence of detail which, in my opinion, not only invests them with an ever-increasing interest, but is absolutely indispensable for their firm retention in his memory.

It has not always been easy to maintain this sequence of thought and idea. I have had to tell of sanguinary wars abroad, while events of paramount importance were happening at home; to carry on two different narratives, as it were, simultaneously; to keep each perfect and distinct, and yet so to interweave the one with the other that the due sequence of dates should not be destroyed. In some rare cases, however, where the too rigid observance of chronological order must have led to the disjointing and dismemberment of some important and interesting historical anecdote, I have



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unhesitatingly sacrificed the sequence of dates to the sequence of narrative; to indicate which occasional departure from my general rule I have enclosed the odd, or apparently intrusive, dates within brackets.

The verses themselves are as simple as possible, and only claim to be *rhymes*—not *poetry*. The whole work has been carefully kept within bounds, so as to admit of its being learned completely by heart by any student of ordinary capacity; and when he has done this, I think he may reward himself with the reflection that there are few public examinations in English History which he would not be able to pass easily, and without further reference to more elaborate *prose* works.

If this little book shall in any degree contribute to lighten the labours of the over-worked student, or even to awaken a wider and more general interest in the glorious annals of our country, my labours will be amply rewarded.

THE AUTHOR.

THE TEMPLE, LONDON.



THE  
HISTORY OF ENGLAND  
IN VERSE.

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INTRODUC- THE first true accounts of the people of Britain,  
TION.        Destined for ever as facts to endure,  
              By Julius Cæsar, the Roman, were written—  
              Prior traditions are false and obscure.  
The way in which Cæsar acquired his knowledge  
              Be it our duty in VERSE to expose ;  
As every pupil in school or in college  
              Likes to read Poetry better than Prose.  
'Tis certain that—whether from greed or ambition,  
              Whether her riches in Tin to explore,  
Or whether perceiving her feeble condition—  
              Julius Cæsar to Britain came o'er.  
Of those who resisted the Roman invasion  
              Cæsar has given a graphic account ;  
And ere we proceed we shall take this occasion  
              What he has written to shortly recount.  
He calls them a hardy, courageous nation,  
              Fair of complexion and yellow of hair ;  
Residing in hovels, without ostentation,  
              Thriving on simple and moderate fare.

INTRODUC-  
TION.

*The wheels of their war-cars, with sickles provided,  
 Reap'd down the foe through whose masses they tore,  
 And onward with fury impetuous guided  
 Left a broad trail of their enemy's gore.  
 But yet these same Britons, so warlike in battle,  
 Seeming but fitted to torture and kill,  
 In happier times could attend to their cattle,  
 Settle to farming, and peacefully till.  
 Of unprepared skins all their clothing consisted,  
 Leaving their limbs without needless restraint :  
 (But scarcely a Briton, however, resisted  
 Just a few streaks ornamental of paint !)  
 The natives were formed into tribes or divisions,  
 Each of them ruled by an absolute chief,  
 Whose envious quarrels and frequent collisions  
 Lent their existence a welcome relief.  
 The Druids, we find, who of youth were the teachers,  
 Suffered no taxes, nor went they to war ;  
 And, being the clergy, of virtue the preachers,  
 Punished all evil and laid down the law.  
 But still they were victims of gross superstition—  
 Burnt men and women their idols to please ;  
 And when they were angered, no sighs of contrition  
 Ever sufficed their revenge to appease.  
 The Oak by the Druids was deeply respected,  
 Great was their love for the Mistletoe bough  
 But heathens were they, and to idols erected  
 Temples, whose ruins are visible now.*

*We've mastered the Britons ! Let that be sufficient ;  
 Cæsar himself little more undertook :  
 But if you consider this abstract deficient  
 You must refer to the General's book.*

- HISTORY: Now the Britons continued thus savage and wild,  
 The Roman Period. Until Cæsar a pause in his battles beguil'd
- B.C. In projecting a sudden attack on the coast,  
 55 And invading our shores with a great Roman host.  
 But when over the Britons some battles he'd gained,  
 And their pledges of future submission obtained,  
 He retired, and left them in peace for a year—
- 54 When a second attack re-awakened their fear.  
 Though *Caswallon*, the Briton, opposed his advance,  
 Against Cæsar's great army he had not a chance ;  
 The old town of *St. Alban's* the conquerors burned,  
 After which to his Gallic wars Cæsar returned.
- A.D. But the Romans, long after, on conquest still bent,  
 43 To crush Britain the brave *Aulus Plautius* sent :  
 Though the natives most fiercely opposed his attack,  
 Their undisciplined forces were soon driven back.  
 Of her gallant defenders, however, a few  
 The invaders of Britain found hard to subdue ;  
 Till their leader, *Caractacus*, basely betrayed,
- 51 By the Romans at length was a prisoner made.  
 59 After *Plautius*, *Suetonius* assumed the command,  
 61 And the conquest of *Mona*, or Anglesea, plann'd ;  
 When in vengeance Queen *Boadicea* uprose,  
 And with valour surprising defeated her foes.  
 But the Romans, undaunted, a fresh battle sought,  
 And with obstinate bravery both parties fought ;  
 Till the heroine vanquished, with fury distraught,
- 62 Put an end to her life in a poisonous draught !
- 78-85 By *Agricola* next (who for seven years reigned),  
 Throughout Britain the power of Rome was maintained  
 O'er the Britons his rule was so gentle and wise,  
 That at length the two foes became friends and allies.

**HISTORY:** Now the *Picts* and the *Scots* (savage tribes from the North),  
**The Roman Period.** Depredation and slaughter their aim, sallied forth;  
 And their inroads the Britons could ne'er have survived  
 If from Rome timely succour they had not derived.

**A.D.** But though *Hadrian* built a strong rampart of earth,  
**121** Running clear from the *Tyne* to the great *Solway* firth,  
 With the object of keeping the robbers at bay,  
 The defence wholly failed in obstructing their way;  
 So another was, nineteen years afterwards, tried,  
 And by *Urbicus* built from the *Forth* to the *Clyde*;  
 It was named by the architect "*Antonine's Wall*,"  
 And its ruins yet standing we "*Graham's Dyke*" call.  
 But still further the *Picts* and the *Scots* to defy,  
 Old *Severus*, the Roman, determined to try;  
 So in *Hadrian's Wall* he contrived such repairs  
**210** That, with slight inconsistence, *his own name* it bears.  
 Then the bold *Saxon* pirates, who ruled o'er the seas,  
 On the south coast of Britain attempted to seize:  
 And, to check them, the Romans resolved to elect  
 An official, our sea-coast to watch and protect.  
 To *Carausius* first was entrusted the post,  
**286** Till, abetting the Saxons, he not only lost  
 The good-will of the nation he'd sworn to defend,  
 But was cruelly slain by *Allectus*, his friend.

(The brave martyr *St. Alban* was now put to death,  
**304** Still upholding his faith to the last dying breath:  
 Many thousands of Christians incurred the same fate,  
 Hapless victims of fierce persecution and hate.)

Then the raids of the *Picts* and the *Scots* were renewed,  
 For, though often repulsed, they had ne'er been subdued;  
 And the Romans were forced by their battles in Gaul  
**410** The great bulk of their armies from Britain to call.



**HISTORY:** So the Britons, bereft of their powerful aid,  
**The Roman Period.** By themselves fought the Picts and the Scots, and display'd

**A.D.** Such invincible pluck in the stress of their woe  
**429** That they conquered and utterly routed the foe.  
 But the Picts and the Scots to the fight came again :  
 An appeal to the Romans was made—but in vain ;  
 For their own pressing troubles engrossed all their cares,  
**446** And the “ Groans of the Britons ” fell flat on their ears.

*Now 'tis here the first stage of our History ends—  
 With the Britons cut off from the Romans their friends :  
 The events we have mentioned, though simple and few,  
 It will not be amiss if we shortly review:—  
 We have witnessed the Britons, rough, savage, and rude,  
 By the Roman invasion refined and subdued :  
 We have seen how the Picts and the Scots were repulsed ;  
 And our south-eastern shores by the Saxons convulsed :  
 And at length, how the Romans, to wage other wars,  
 Were reluctantly forced to abandon our shores,  
 While the Britons, deserted, for help vainly cried,  
 Against foes who beset them on every side.*

Then the British chief, *Vortigern*, rashly besought  
**449** E'en the Saxons themselves, whom so long they had fought,  
 To unite with the Britons as potent allies,  
 And assist them, the terrible foe to surprise.  
 So the Saxon chiefs, *Hengist* and *Horsa*, we find,  
 Their own forces with those of the Britons combined :  
**450** All resistance to such an alliance was vain,  
 And the Picts and the Scots were soon routed again.  
 But then, having the call of the Britons obey'd,  
 The unprincipled Saxons resolved to invade,

HISTORY: And apportion between them, in parcels or lots,  
 The Saxon Period. The fair land which they'd saved from the Picts and the  
 Scots !

Then too clearly brave Vortigern saw the mistake  
 That his ill-advised zeal had induced him to make;  
 For from *Saxony*, warriors, arms, and supplies,  
 Were despatched to secure such a glorious prize :  
 But the desperate Britons not tamely would yield,  
 And with soul-stirring war-cry were led to the field  
 By *Ambrosius*, *Vortimer* (Vortigern's son),

A.D. And *Prince Arthur*—in bravery second to none.  
 455-586 Many years they continued the terrible strife,  
 For they all were resolved upon *war to the knife* :  
 Though the Britons had triumph'd if *Right* had availed,  
 The superior might of the Saxons prevailed :  
 Overpowered, the former were forced to retreat,  
 Till the conquest of Britain was firm and complete.  
 Of the conquered, a portion the Welsh mountains gained,  
 And a part fled to Gaul ; while a few there remained  
 To lament for the glory of Britain, now gone,  
 And their home, friends, and kindred, in silence to mourn.  
 As the conquest proceeded, at various times,  
 Seven kingdoms (their names would encumber our rhymes)  
 By the Saxons were founded, each ruling his own,  
 Which together are still as the "HEPTARCHY" known.

(The Pope *Gregory* now sent *Augustine* to preach,  
 537 And the Christian religion in Britain to teach ;  
 Being aided by *Ethelbert*, monarch of *Kent*,  
 Much success crowned the mission on which he was sent.)

Now the Saxons, it might very well be believed,  
 Having safely their bold machinations achieved,

HISTORY: O'er their several kingdoms would govern in peace,  
 The Saxon Period. And the national welfare unite to increase :  
 'Twas by no means the case ; for they quarrelled and fought,  
 And to gain the ascendant each petty prince sought ;  
 Until *Egbert*, of *Wessex* the powerful king,  
 To submission them all was enabled to bring ;  
 A.D. When he gave the whole country its well-beloved name  
 827 Of Old " ENGLAND "—a fact that much adds to his fame !

[787] At this time a new trouble arose in the land ;  
 For the Northmen, or *Danes* (a piratical band  
 Who had settled in Denmark), came over in swarms,  
 And aroused throughout England the gravest alarms.

Till the death of King *Ethelred* fierce was the strife,  
 And full many a warrior laid down his life :  
 But the hopes of the Danes were at length overthrown  
 By King *Alfred the Great*, who had come to the throne.  
 Though defeated at first, he opposed them until  
 878 By surprise he dispersed them at *Ethandune* ; still  
 He permitted the Danes to make England their home  
 On condition they all would good Christians become.  
 After some years of peace, he was harassed again  
 By the furious onslaught of *Hastings*, the Dane :  
 894 But at *Farnham* King *Alfred* defeated the foe,  
 And obliged all the Danes out of England to go.

(Yet this famous young prince was more noted by far  
 For his wisdom and prudence than knowledge of war :  
 He encouraged all Learning, the Navy improved,  
 Readjusted the Law—and by all was beloved !)

We may safely pass over the reigns which succeed  
 (Any fact incidental you elsewhere may read)—

- HISTORY: Till that cause of much bloodshed, the old Danish feud  
 The Saxon Period. Was by *Ethelred* (called the *Unready*) renewed.
- A.D. He attempted at first to *buy off* their attacks
- 991 With large presents of money obtained by a tax  
 Known as *Danegelt*; but finding them troublesome still,
- 1002 He resolved all the Danes in his kingdom to kill!  
 But for vengeance the Danish King *Sweyn* was athirst,  
 And his terrible wrath over England then burst:  
 Into Normandy *Ethelred* fled for his life,
- 1013 And the crowning of *Sweyn* put an end to the strife.
- 1014 His successor, *Canute*, was a powerful prince,  
 Toward whom such respect did his subjects evince,  
 That, as all will remember, they thought he could stay  
 E'en *the rise of the tide* by the force of his sway.

Altogether the Danish kings ruled in the land  
 During twenty-nine years; and contrived to withstand  
 All the efforts (to oust them from that which they'd won)  
 Of King *Ethelred*, followed by *Edmund*, his son.  
 But the last of the Danish kings, *Hardicanute*,  
 Was a violent, drunken, intemperate brute.  
 He fell dead at a feast, and in England's new lord—

1042 Pious *Edward*—the old Saxon line was restored.

By the name of "Confessor" King *Edward* was known,  
 And he owed to Earl *Godwin* his seat on the throne;  
 For that nobleman, taking the Danes unawares,  
 Boldly wrested the kingdom from them and their heirs.  
 At the close of a useful and peaceable reign,  
 "The Confessor," perceiving his strength on the wane,  
 Thought it prudent, lest strife should arise at his death,  
 Unto *William*, the Norman, his Crown to bequeath.  
 But young *Harold*, the son of Earl *Godwin*, resolved  
 To be monarch himself; and he soon was involved

**HISTORY:** In a deadly encounter with William the Duke,  
**The** Who had sworn such intrusion with force to rebuke.  
**Norman** At the battle of *Hastings* his oath was fulfilled,  
**Period.** For the Saxons were routed and Harold was killed :  
**A.D.** When the duke, who was hence as the "Conqueror"  
**1066** known,  
 Took his seat, as King William the First, on the throne.

*How the treacherous Saxons a shameful use made  
 Of the Britons' distress, their domains to invade,  
 And established the seven great kingdoms or states—  
 Epoch two of our history fully relates :  
 And, moreover, how jealousy led to the fall  
 Of six Saxon kings—Egbert subduing them all ;  
 How his son and his grandsons, while kings in the land,  
 Were much harassed at times by the Danes' savage band,  
 Until Ethelred reigned ; when, we also have seen  
 How the Danish King Sweyn and his heirs intervene ;  
 And, at length, how the Saxons once more took the throne,  
 While the hopes of the Danes were for ever o'erthrown ;  
 And, at last, how the Norman Duke William renowned,  
 Spite of Harold, his foe, King of England was crowned.*

### THE NORMAN LINE.

**1066**      **WILLIAM I., surnamed THE CONQUEROR.**  
 To a troublesome war his accession gave rise,  
 For the nation perceived, with indignant surprise,  
 That to profit the Normans the Saxons were thrust  
 Out of every office of honour and trust.  
*Edgar Atheling*, seeking the aid of the Danes,  
**1069**      Now invaded the newly-crowned monarch's domains ;  
 Noble *Waltheof*, sharing the public dissent,  
 His support to the malcontents readily lent ;

- HISTORY : And Earls *Edwin* and *Morcar*, with *Hereward the Wake*  
 The All united, revenge against William to take.  
 Norman Period. In the strife which ensued many heroes were slain,  
 But the Conqueror triumphed again and again :  
 A.D. With the Conquest of *Ely*, and *Hereward's* defeat,  
 1071 The subjection of England at last was complete.  
 E'en the monarch of Scotland was forced to submit,  
 1072 And the Conqueror's claim to the throne to admit.  
 Yet, although many victories William had won,  
 He had still to encounter Duke *Robert*, his son,  
 Who, unmindful of duty, was eager to reign  
 Over *Normandy*—which was his father's domain.  
 Storming *Gerberoy*, William was thrown from his horse  
 1079 By the duke, who then yielded—through shame and  
 remorse.

- The *New Forest* by William was furnished with game ;  
 But his laws against *poaching* redound to his shame.  
 1085 By the old *Feudal System*, to England now brought,  
 In the tenure of land many changes were wrought :  
 Ev'ry parcel of land (now described as a *fief*),  
 Was enjoyed as a grant from the sovereign, as *Chief* ;  
 But his tenants in turn were allowed to demise  
 Unto other sub-tenants ; this plan giving rise  
 To a series of *pacts*—by which each might depend  
 On his landlord for help, his estates to defend.  
 When in battle, the lord claimed his vassal's support,  
 And in peace, his assistance and counsel at court ;  
 When his daughter was married, his son made a knight  
 Or himself taken captive, he claimed as a right  
 That his vassals a small sum of money should pay,  
 And a part of these heavy expenses defray.  
 1086 (Famous *Domesday Book* now by the king was devised,  
 And a *census* and *survey* of England comprised.)



HISTORY: All the leading events of this reign have been told :  
 The Norman Period. For the rest, we may note that the *Curfew* was toll'd  
 As a warning at eight o'clock every night,  
 To extinguish all dangerous fire and light.

'Twas at *Mantes* the brave Conqueror met with his fate,  
 And the mode of his death we have now to relate :  
 Certain petty French barons had dared to encroach  
 On the frontiers of Normandy ; William's reproach  
 To King Philip of France for permitting the raid  
 Was unheeded, so France he resolved to invade.  
 At the burning of *Mantes* his horse started aside,  
 And so injured the king that soon after he died.  
 He appointed his second son, *William*, his heir,  
 Who as *Rufus* was known, from the tint of his hair ;  
 While to Robert, who dared his displeasure to brave,  
 In his anger he nothing but Normandy gave.  
 On the instant the breath from his body had flown,  
 His son William the Second ascended the throne.

1087 WILLIAM II., surnamed RUFUS.

THE new monarch at first was much harassed by strife  
 1090-91 That with Robert, and those who upheld him, was rife :  
 Then the Bishop of *Baieux*, proud *Odo*, rebelled,  
 And 'twas only by force the rebellion was quelled ;  
 1093 Then the Scottish King *Malcolm* invaded the land,  
 But at *Alnwick* was checked with a resolute hand.  
 1095 Nor should e'er we forget the first famous *Crusade*,  
 Undertaken by Christians of every grade,  
 Whose religious devotion impelled them to go  
 Into *Palestine*—ravaged by *Saracen* foe,  
 And to succour the Pilgrims who felt it their call  
 To repair to the SEPULCHRE—sacred to all.

HISTORY:      Nothing more of importance occurred in this reign,  
 The Norman Period.      For the king, while out hunting, soon after was slain  
                                  By the chief of his followers, *Tyrrel* by name,  
 A.D. 1100      With an arrow he swore was intended for *game*!

1100                      HENRY I., surnamed BEAUCLERC.

THE Duke Robert, who now should have come to the throne,  
 Found his hopes by young *Henry*, his brother, o'erthrown;  
 For the latter contrived, in his absence, to seize  
 On the now vacant throne: but his wrath to appease  
 'Twas agreed that o'er England Prince Henry should reign  
 While his brother should Normandy's dukedom retain;  
 But if either should die without issue, then he  
 1101      Who survived should the monarch of *both* domains be.  
 But as Robert his ease to his duty preferred,  
 Depredation and violence daily occurred  
 In his dukedom; and soon 'twas the scene of a strife  
 That deprived him alike of his honours and life!  
 For King Henry determined to make a good use  
 Of his brother's neglect, and his power reduce;  
 1106      At the battle of *Tenchbrai* the duke and his son  
 Were defeated, and Normandy finally won;  
 And King Henry, exulting with victory's pride,  
 Thrust his brother in prison, where ling'ring he died.

1120              The dear son of the monarch, *Prince William*, was  
                          drowned,  
 Or he might, on the death of his sire, have been crowned.  
 Deeply mourning his fate, and o'erpowered by care,  
 The king named his own daughter *Matilda* his heir.  
 But her hopes of a peaceable reign were dispersed  
 By young *Stephen* (the grandson of William the First),  
 Who, forgetting the kindness King Henry had shown  
 1135      To himself and his brother, laid claim to the throne.

**HISTORY:** He declared that 'twas said by the king ere he died,  
**The** That *his* claim should the rights of Matilda o'er-ride ;  
**Norman** So to London he sped, strong adherents he found,  
**Period.** And the crafty usurper was hastily crowned.

A.D.

1135

## STEPHEN OF BLOIS.

BUT a fierce civil war then arose in the land,  
 And Matilda herself of her force took command :  
 Though her uncle, of Scotland, supported her right,  
 1138 At *Northallerton* he was obliged to take flight.  
 But when Stephen, defeated at *Lincoln*, was brought  
 1141 From the field as a captive by *Gloucester* (who fought  
 On Matilda's behalf),—and when Gloucester, in turn,  
 Was made captive near *Winchester*,—neither could spurn  
 The device of a treaty, by which 'twas arranged  
 That both captives at once should be freed, and *exchanged*.

After many reverses, by each side sustained,  
 The sole monarch of England King Stephen remained ;  
 But the wrath of Matilda was somewhat allay'd  
 1153 By the terms of a treaty at *Wallingford* made :  
 That King Stephen should reign till his death, she agreed,  
 When Prince Henry, her son, to the Crown should succeed.  
 By the barons the prince was acknowledged as heir,  
 For all parties agreed the arrangement was fair ;  
 And not long was his eager expectancy tried,  
 1154 For the very next year the king sickened, and died.

Upon this, once again for a moment we pause,  
 To review these four reigns, with their numerous wars :  
 We remember how William the First gained the crown,  
 And the fierce opposition he had to put down :  
 How the land was divided, the Curfew bell rung,  
 And the Domesday Book finished—we also have sung :

**HISTORY:** *We remember how Robert, deprived of his right,  
 The  
 Planta- With his brother, King William, had many a fight ;  
 genetis. And the famous Crusade which occurred in this reign ;  
 And the death of the king, by an accident slain :  
 We have seen, in the reign of King Henry the First,  
 How the fortunes of Robert for e'er were reversed :  
 We remember how Stephen by force took the throne,  
 Though the right had devolved on Matilda alone ;  
 And, at last, how the rivals by treaty agreed  
 That King Stephen should reign, and Prince Henry succeed.*

### THE PLANTAGENET LINE.

**A.D.**

**1154**

#### HENRY II.

So Prince Henry, the first of the line which is known  
 As the *House of Plantagenet*, came to the throne.  
 He employed the first years of his notable reign  
 In a feud with the clergy, who sought to retain  
 Uncontrolled jurisdiction o'er clerical torts,  
 And to deal with Church scandals in clerical courts ;  
 So they firmly refused to be bound by the law,  
 And their friends from its vengeance combined to withdraw.

1162 Now the Archbishop, *Thomas à Becket* (who owed  
 To the king all his dignities), openly showed  
 That he meant without scruple to leave in the lurch  
 His too generous patron, and side with the Church ;

1164 But the *Council of Clarendon*, called by the king  
 This ungenerous priest to his senses to bring,  
 Having gravely debated, saw fit to decide—  
*That all clergymen guilty of crime should be tried,  
 Just as laymen, in civil courts—not in their own,  
 Which to wink at their faults were uncommonly prone !  
 And that clergy of rank must permission receive  
 From the king, ere they ventured the country to leave ;*

HISTORY: *No election, without the assent of the king,*  
 The *Any prelate thenceforth into office should bring ;*  
 Planta- *And, still further the wrath of the king to appease,*  
 genets. *He was granted the incomes of all vacant sees.*  
*And, lest Rome with her Bulls might perchance interlope,*  
*It was made an offence to appeal to the Pope.*

But à Becket, who still his submission refused,  
 Was of further misdeeds at Northampton accused :  
 He was straightway condemned, and foreseeing no chance  
 Of attaining his ends, he retreated to France.

(Now King Dermot of Leinster, expelled from his throne  
 By O'Ruarc of Breffny, to England had flown ;  
 A.D. And as Henry conceived he might profit thereby,  
 1169 He determined the rights of the quarrel to try :  
 So he sent Richard Strongbow to Ireland o'er,  
 With injunctions the prince to his throne to restore.)

Still à Becket continued the feud while abroad,  
 And the King was at length by his threats overaw'd :  
 He invited him back—when four knights of his suite  
 (In the hope that their master's approval 'twould meet)  
 1170 Took this restless and arrogant priest unawares,  
 And dispatched him in church, while engaged in his  
 prayers.

Now, in Ireland brave Strongbow, who went to redress  
 The misfortunes of Dermot, had met with success :  
 But, extending their arms after this had been done,  
 By the English the whole of the country was won ;  
 1171 And 'twas thus that the land, with so slight a pretext,  
 Was invaded, and firmly to England annex'd.

- HISTORY:      Then the sons of the king, with assistance from France,  
 The      The discomforts of Henry's old age to enhance,  
 Planta-      Were so eager to reign o'er the lands to be theirs  
 genets.  
 A.D.      On their father's decease, that they asked for their shares  
 1173      While he yet was alive ; and on being denied,  
             To enforce a compliance the reprobates tried.  
             As King William of Scotland approved their desire,  
             He afforded them aid against Henry their sire ;  
             But he suffered a total defeat in the North,  
             When at *Alnwick* to meet him the English went forth ;  
 1189      And but fifteen years after, through trouble and grief,  
             Poor King Henry in death found a welcome relief.
- 1189              RICHARD I., surnamed CŒUR DE LION.
- THEN his second son, Richard, ascended the throne,  
             And much shame for his conduct is said to have shown.  
             "Cœur de Lion," King Richard was nicknamed, because  
             The brave heart of a lion he showed in his wars ;  
             But of one cruel action the king we accuse—  
             'Twas the barbarous murder of thousands of Jews,  
             Who in London and York, the first year of his reign,  
             By command of the king in fierce hatred were slain.  
             Less unworthy pursuits then engrossing his mind,  
             Shortly after in *Palestine* Richard we find ;  
             For *Jerusalem* (lost in the last monarch's reign),  
             All the Christians from *Saladin* vowed to regain.  
 1191      So King Richard took arms in the glorious fight,  
             And at *Acre* and *Ascalon* fought for the right :  
             But at last, when in sight of Jerusalem's walls,  
             He was forced to make peace by the quarrels and brawls  
             In his armies (now eager their homes to regain)—  
 1192      And in *Saladin's* hands let the city remain.  
             Against Richard while absent, his brother Prince *John*,  
             Who desired the Crown, a deep plot carried on :



- HISTORY: Fickle *Philip*, of France, with the prince was in league,  
 The And the Austrian emperor joined their intrigue.  
 Planta- While returning through Austria, Richard, we find,  
 genets. Was detained by his foes and to prison consign'd ;  
 Of which circumstance John and his foreign allies  
 Took advantage their treacherous schemes to devise.
- A.D. But at length, on a ransom his captors agreed,  
 1194 Which in England was raised, and King Richard was  
 freed.
- Having leniently dealt with his brother, the king  
 (Who to Normandy sped in the following spring  
 To take vengeance on France for her share in the plot)  
 While besieging the castle of *Chaluz* was shot
- 1199 By an arrow, which mortification produced,  
 And the death of King Richard soon after induced.
- 1199 JOHN, surnamed LACKLAND.
- THEN his traitorous brother, King John, took the throne,  
 And as *Sans terre*, or *Lackland*, is commonly known  
 (Since his father, in natural anger and grief  
 At his conduct undutiful, gave him no *fief*).  
 But Prince *Arthur* of *Brittany*, nephew to John  
 (Being first-born of *Geoffrey*, King Henry's fourth son),  
 Well supported by many French lords of renown,  
 Was induced to assert his own right to the Crown.  
 Even Philip, John's staunchest ally not long since,  
 Left his friend in the lurch and declared for the prince ;  
 But at *Mirebeau* Arthur was captured, and led
- 1202 As a captive to England ; where John, it is said,  
 Stabbed his nephew to death with his own cruel hand,  
 That in peace he might reign o'er the coveted land !  
 Then the nobles of *Brittany*, mourning their lord,  
 The all-powerful aid of King Philip implor'd ;



- HISTORY: And a very few months saw the English expell'd  
 The From the noble domains which in France they had held ;  
 Planta- And as cowardly John now perceived, to his cost,  
 genets. A.D. All these foreign possessions to England were lost.  
 1204-5 But his mind was distracted by troubles at home,  
 Which were caused by a slight to the Pontiff of Rome :  
 For a primate, without his consent, had been made,  
 1208 And in wrath, he o'er England an *Interdict* laid.  
 (He had wished when the bishopric vacant became  
 To appoint his own Cardinal, *Langton* by name ;  
 But King John, without deigning his sanction to crave,  
 To the Bishop of Norwich the Primacy gave.)  
 Being urged by the Pontiff, King Philip prepared  
 To invade John's dominions : the Pope, too, declared,  
 That as John to submission appeared indisposed,  
 1212 As a punishment he should be *banned*, and deposed !  
 But the king, in alarm at this terrible threat,  
 And with prospects of war and rebellion beset,  
 Thought it prudent no more with the Pope to contest,  
 But at once to comply with his angry request.  
 He made *Langton* Archbishop ; nor there did he stop,  
 1213 But to *Innocent* gave a large sum as a *sop* !  
 Which obsequious bearing so softened the Pope,  
 That he told the French monarch no longer to hope  
 For the friendship of Rome if he still carried on  
 His iniquitous strife against pious King John !  
 But King Philip (altho' *himself* prone to deceive)  
 That the Pope was so fickle could hardly believe :  
 So the war between France and King John was renew'd,  
 And 'twas not till next year that they ended the feud :  
 No important advantage to either side fell,  
 1214 Ere they made peace at *Chinon*—and all ended well.  
 But as soon as John clear of this trouble had steered,  
 His own subjects, by whom he was hated and feared,

**HISTORY:** Raised an open rebellion, designed to subvert  
**The** His contemptible rule and their rights to assert.  
**Planta-** For if ever there was an unpopular king  
**genets.** It was John—who both managed the English to bring  
 Into scorn and contempt with the Powers abroad,  
 And at home was an insolent, tyrannous lord.  
 All the bishops, with Langton the Primate, estranged  
 From the king, on the side of the people were ranged :  
 While the Barons of England united in force,  
 Being fully resolved on a desperate course.  
 They appointed a meeting their wrongs to recount,  
 And declared that the king for his deeds should account.  
 'Twas on *Runnymede* plain that the council was held,  
 And at sight of his foes the king's spirit was quell'd :  
**A.D.** To obey their commands he no longer declined,  
**1215** And the famed *Magna Charta* was drawn up and signed.  
 Now the terms of this charter (which served to appease  
 The whole nation's disgust), amongst others, were these:—  
*None to prison shall ever be sent without cause*  
 (Such committals were common, so weak were the laws) :  
*But be tried by a jury composed of his peers*  
 (For much prejudice lay between different spheres) :  
*The Great Council alone shall all taxes impose*  
 (That this clause was important we well can suppose) :  
*Speedy justice, impartial and free, ALL shall have :—*  
 (Which the finishing stroke to our liberty gave !)  
 The Great Charter whose terms the mean monarch appalled  
 Was the “Bulwark of Freedom and Liberty” called :  
 And tho' broken and ratified times and again,  
 As our basis of government e'er will remain !  
 Now the Pope, when he heard of the charter, refused  
 To approve of the means which the Barons had used  
 To compel their own sovereign to grant them redress—  
 And took practical measures his wrath to express.

HISTORY: From his signature John, by the Pope, was absolved,  
 The And on speedy revenge the poor monarch resolved.  
 Planta- He proceeded to *Rochester*, held by the chief  
 genets. A.D.  
 1215 Of the malcontent Barons: when he, to their grief,  
 Was defeated and captured; and Rochester fell,  
 Striving vainly the onslaught of John to repel.  
 Then the desperate Barons beheld their last chance  
 In that friendly *chameleon*, Philip of France:  
 So to him they agreed for protection to cling  
 And acknowledge Prince *Louis*, his son, as their king.  
 'Twas arranged: and King Philip an army sent o'er,  
 1216 With Prince Louis himself at their head; but before  
 Either English or French had a chance to oppose  
 The adherents of John, whom they came to depose,  
 A sad accident stood the allies in good stead,  
 As it silenced their foe without blood being shed.  
 For as John (choosing Lincolnshire beach for his road)  
 Was advancing to meet them, the *Wash* overflow'd,  
 And immersed his whole army, himself, and his train,  
 Ere they managed, by wading, dry land to regain;  
 But they found when they reached *terra firma* once more,  
 They had lost all their baggage, munition, and store:  
 And this threatened so gravely their march to impede,  
 That the king was disheartened, and would not proceed.  
*Newark Castle* he reached: but then ordered a halt,  
 Nor would suffer his troops to commence the assault;  
 And a fever, augmented by cold and fatigue,  
 Put an end to his life and the Barons' intrigue.

1216

## HENRY III., of WINCHESTER.

His son Henry, who thereupon came to the throne,  
 At the death of his father was not twenty-one;  
 So the kingdom was ruled by Earl *Pembroke*, until  
 The young prince could his own kingly duties fulfil.

- HISTORY: Under Pembroke the French from our shores were  
The expelled,  
Plantagenets. And the Barons to give up his cause were compelled ;  
A.D. 1217 For the battle of *Lincoln* was Louis' defeat,  
And he vowed ne'er again for the crown to compete.  
After Pembroke came *Hubert de Burgh* to the helm ;  
And then *Peter des Roches* took command of the realm.  
Now, though Pembroke and Hubert each governed with  
skill,  
And were, both of them, honest and upright, they still  
Were disliked and opposed by the Barons, who thought  
*That they all were as good as their masters*, in short !  
So the nobles kept up a perpetual feud,  
Giving rise to the wars which thereafter ensued ;  
And when Henry resolved, in a mood of caprice,  
1232 That the rule of good Hubert should suddenly cease,  
And assigned it to Peter des Roches in his stead,  
The disgust of the Barons a new grievance fed :—  
Because Peter des Roches, being foreign by birth,  
So persuaded the king of his countrymen's worth,  
That the monarch invited them over in hosts,  
And installed them in all the most lucrative posts.  
The king also espoused a young foreign princess,  
And her subjects he loaded with ev'ry caress ;  
And had, further, such friendly relations with Rome,  
That from Italy numbers made England their home.  
Now the English, of course, at his conduct much vex'd,  
Were too eager to seize on the slightest pretext  
To express their dislike and contempt for this course,  
And if treated with scorn, to resent it with force.  
Tho', in order some show of good rule to maintain,  
Magna Charta was often *confirmed* in this reign,  
It was broken as oft—and, his oaths having spurned,  
To his old course of conduct King Henry returned.

HISTORY: But at length it could no more be borne; for 'twas clear  
 The That the state of the country grew worse ev'ry year :  
 Planta- So Earl *Simon de Montfort*, of *Leicester* the lord,  
 gnetts. Went so far as to hint at appeal to the sword ;  
 While the rest of the Barons stirred up such a storm,  
 A.D. That the monarch, in fear, promised instant reform.  
 1258 A great council at *Oxford* was called by the king,  
 To which Montfort thought fit all his vassals to bring  
 Clad in armour complete, his demands to enforce,  
 Should the monarch compel him to take such a course ;  
 And this famous *Mad Parliament* (so called because  
 Of the doubt and confusion attending its laws)  
 First directed the Barons to put up their swords—  
 Then decreed that Earl Montfort and twenty-four lords  
 Should assemble, and sit as a council of state,  
 And on government matters confer and debate :—  
 Having power such laws to enact or repeal  
 As were for, or opposed to, the national weal.  
 (They ordained that *each county four knights should*  
*elect,*  
*And an annual sheriff, its rights to protect ;*  
*And they further declared that each year it was fit*  
*That a session of Parliament always should sit.*  
 The “Provisions of Oxford” were many : the chief  
 Are above—for the others our space is too brief.)

The confederate Barons, their ends having gained,  
 For a time undisputed dominion retained ;  
 But they made such a harsh and tyrannical use  
 Of their power, that soon it became an abuse.  
 Both alarm and disgust by their acts were aroused,  
 And great numbers the cause of King Henry espoused :  
 Bitter jealousy, hatred, and envy grew rife,  
 And the ranks of the Barons were weaken'd by strife ;

HISTORY  
The  
Plantagenets.  
A.D.

Until Henry, supported by Louis of France,  
Of asserting his rights as a king saw a chance.

1264

So the Barons and he civil war carried on,  
In which each some advantage from time to time won ;  
When, at length, to refer the dispute, 'twas agreed,  
To the monarch of France ; who at *Amiens* decreed  
That King Henry had been in the right all along,  
While the malcontent Barons were certainly wrong.  
So the former at once was relieved and absolved  
From the " Oxford Provisions," and all they involved.  
But the Barons were hasty of temper, and proud,  
And on hearing the verdict their wrath overflow'd ;

1264

A great battle at *Lewes* by Leicester was gained,  
And the king in his hands as a captive remained :  
Tho' soon after, by treaty, a peace was begun,  
And the captive *exchanged* for Prince Edward, his son.  
But De Montfort, rebellious and arrogant still,  
All the terms of this treaty refused to fulfil :

1265

He now summoned a council composed of his friends,  
Whose assistance he needed to further his ends ;  
And from every county resolved to admit  
Two good knights in this *first House of Commons* to sit :  
While from every borough, 'tis useful to note,  
He permitted two burghers as members to vote.  
But, before he could aught of importance effect,  
All the schemes of Earl Montfort for ever were  
check'd

By the gallant Prince Edward (escaped from his foes),  
Who determined the arrogant earl to oppose.

To the forces of Edward resistance was vain—

1265

At the battle of *Evesham* Earl Montfort was slain :  
All his followers yielded, their lives to redeem,  
And the rule of King Henry once more was supreme.

HISTORY: But he now was approaching the end of a life  
 The Much embittered by care and perpetual strife ;  
 Planta- For but seven short years his existence dragged on,  
 genets. And the crown then devolved on Prince Edward, his son.

A.D.

1272

EDWARD I., surnamed LONGSHANKS.

THIS young monarch took resolute means to maintain  
 All the rights of the Crown (which long dormant had lain);  
 And he promptly began, with the nation's applause,  
 An impartial and thorough revision of laws.  
 By the *Statute of Gloucester* the Barons were made  
 To account for the dues which had long been unpaid;  
 And, as nobles, to render their service and aid  
 To the monarch—which duty they tried to evade:  
 1279 While the *Statute of Mortmain* was passed in this reign,  
 Reckless presents of land to the Church to restrain:  
 And 'twas thus the king sought to repair all abuse,  
 And the might of the nobles and clergy reduce.

Now 'tis fit that (omitting all minor details)  
 We should briefly advert to the *Conquest of Wales*.  
 As Llewellyn its prince, when Earl Montfort rebelled,  
 Had declared in his favour, King Edward, impelled  
 By a tardy resentment, demanded his oath  
 Of submission: Llewellyn to grant it was loath—  
 Therefore Edward invaded the country with force,  
 And Llewellyn in vain tried to hinder his course.  
 Many battles with obstinate courage were fought,  
 1282 Till the conquest of Wales to completion was brought;  
 When the king made the young heir-apparent its prince,  
 And the *Heirs* have been "Princes of Wales" ever since.

Persecution was fierce against Jews in this reign—  
 1290 Many thousands were banished, imprisoned, or slain:



HISTORY: But from them and their sufferings, hardships and cares,  
The We must turn for a moment to Scotland's affairs.  
Plantagenets.

Alexander the Third having died, 'twas agreed  
That his granddaughter then to the Crown should succeed;  
But her sudden decease to much trouble gave rise,  
As a number of candidates strove for the prize.  
Now, among them were *Baliol* and *Bruce*, both allied  
To the line of the Scottish kings: each of them tried  
To assert his own right to the now vacant throne,  
And the land into strife and confusion was thrown:  
Till, at length, to King Edward the point was referr'd;  
And as soon as that monarch both parties had heard,  
A.D. He decided that Baliol o'er Scotland should reign,  
1292 But a vassal of England should ever remain.

Now the monarch, who thus as a friend interfered,  
Had less worthy designs than at first sight appeared:  
For he treated John Baliol not as a king,  
But as merely a vassal: contriving to sting  
His too sensitive spirit by threats and commands,  
Which the Scot found it hard to endure at his hands.  
Therefore, wishing his power to further enhance,  
He contrived an alliance with Philip of France:  
But King Edward no sooner had heard of their pact  
Than he marched into Scotland, and Baliol attack'd.  
1296 At *Dunbar* the Scotch army was put to the rout,  
And the valour of England established throughout  
The entire domain—whose weak monarch in fear  
Was induced his submission to Edward to swear:  
He was taken a captive, to England sent o'er,  
And of him, as a monarch, we hear nothing more;

HISTORY: But the English Earl *Warrenne*, at Edward's command,  
 The As a royal lieutenant remained in the land.  
 Planta-  
 genets.

Then the king sought by force to recover from France  
 Certain provinces lost by a petty mischance ;  
 And, in order to levy supplies for the war,  
 He resorted to measures too stringent by far.  
 Both the clergy and laity harshly he taxed,  
 Until stronger and stronger their grievances waxed :  
 The meek clergy declined on their rights to insist,  
 But the nobles and commons resolved to resist ;  
 And, upheld by the two greatest earls in the land,  
 They were able the threats of the king to withstand.  
 They assembled a Parliament, called for redress,  
 A.D. And the monarch was forced his misdeeds to confess :  
 1297 He confirmed *Magna Charta*, and vowed ne'er again  
 To attempt by extortion his wishes to gain.

Fresh disturbances shortly in Scotland arose :  
*William Wallace*, who hated the English, his foes,  
 With an army of Scots made so fierce an attack,  
 That the English who met him were soon driven back.  
*Cambuskenneth*, near *Stirling* (the scene of the fight),  
 Saw the English repulsed in a terrible plight ;  
 When Earl *Warrenne* was forced to abandon his trust,  
 And both he and his army from Scotland were thrust.  
 Retribution, however, was speedy and sure—  
 Not a moment of rest would King Edward endure  
 1298 Till at *Falkirk* with Wallace he had a fierce bout,  
 And the whole Scottish army was put to the rout.  
 But 'twas clear that, in spite of this crushing defeat,  
 The subjection of Scotland was not yet complete ;  
 1305 For when, hanged as a traitor, brave Wallace was dead,  
*Robert Bruce*, a new hero, arose in his stead.

HISTORY: He was grandson of Bruce who was formerly known  
 The As the second great claimant, or heir to the throne ;  
 Planta- And the possible chance he now eagerly hailed  
 genets. That himself might succeed where his grandfather failed.  
 A.D. 1306 At the battle of *Methven* he suffered defeat,  
 With the forces of Edward too weak to compete :  
 1307 But at *Loudon*, the English were bound to confess  
 That the Scots could lay claim to a petty success ;  
 And 'twas then, altho' neither would hear of a peace,  
 That the struggle was stayed—by King Edward's decease.

1307 EDWARD II., of CAERNARVON.

HE was followed by Edward the Second, his son ;  
 But as soon as this monarch's short reign had begun,  
 He contrived all his subjects' esteem to reduce  
 By the course he pursued against bold Robert Bruce.  
 For, declaring at once on a mighty attack,  
 He proceeded to Scotland—but then he marched back,  
 Having dealt not a blow in that time-honoured cause  
 Which his father for years had upheld without pause.  
 The nobility, highly incensed at this freak,  
 Even ventured their just indignation to speak ;  
 And their anger was further increased by the fact  
 (Which was only too clear) that their sovereign lack'd  
 All the dignity, manners, and grace of a king,  
 While he gave to his pleasures and revels full swing.  
 Now the chief of his favourites, *Gaveston* called,  
 The affection of weak-minded Edward enthralled ;  
 And, sustained by his patron's protection and love  
 'Twas in vain that his rivals to humble him strove.  
 But his conduct at last was no more to be borne—  
 To deprive him of honour the nobles had sworn ;  
 And when, after a long and most obstinate strife,  
 1312 He was captured, he paid for his faults with his life.

HISTORY:      Now the king, being thus of his minion deprived,  
 The              By his loss such accession of spirit derived,  
 Plantagenets.      That he ventured to brave Robert Bruce once again,  
                     And endeavour his father's prestige to regain.  
 A.D.              But at *Bannockburn* Bruce got the best of the fight,  
 1314              And King Edward himself was compelled to take flight.  
                     The event was decisive, and Scotland was free—  
                     Upon England no longer dependent was she ;  
                     And, as fitting reward for that hero renowned,  
                     Robert Bruce was at once as her sovereign crowned.

As a balm for his chagrin the king went in quest  
 Of another dear minion to take to his breast :  
*Hugh Despenser*, the only one fit for the part,  
 Was selected, and quickly engrossed the king's heart.  
 Then the nobles again with suspicion beheld  
 Edward's choice of a favourite : discontent swell'd,  
 And remonstrances haughty and loud to the king,  
 Against hated Despenser, they feared not to bring.  
 But the monarch was firm, and refused to abjure  
 His dear friend for the Barons he could not endure :  
 And the difference waxed to so stormy a height  
 That in very few months it had grown to a fight.  
 Now the great Earl of *Lancaster*, prince of the blood,  
 Was a man of a haughty and turbulent mood ;  
 And perceiving the favourite proof against plots,  
 He assembled an army, and leagued with the Scots.  
 1322      But at *Boroughbridge* Lancaster met with his fate—  
             Very dearly he paid for his violent hate ;  
             For his army was routed ; and he, being tried,  
             Was condemned, and the death of a traitor he died.

Yet again were the fears of King Edward aroused  
 By his Queen, *Isabella*, who warmly espoused

HISTORY: The defence of the Barons, and heartily shared  
 The dislike for Despenser they all had declared.  
 The She was absent in France, where she vowed to remain,  
 Planta- And to never set foot in this country again,  
 genetis. Till Despenser (by Edward far better beloved  
 Than herself) from the court was for ever removed.  
 She was aided and cheered in her traitorous schemes  
 By the young *Roger Mortimer*: he, as it seems,  
 Was a puissant Welsh baron, in love with the Queen,  
 Who returned it—not scorning her rank to demean.  
 So these two and the barons assembled a force,  
 And, unmindful of duty, unstruck by remorse,  
 A.D. They set hands on their sovereign, deserted by all,  
 1327 And he soon fell a prey to their shameful *cabal*.

In his terror his own abdication he signed,  
 And was then in the Castle of *Berkeley* confined;  
 Where his death by slow torture soon after occur'd,  
 And his son took the throne as King Edward the Third.

1327

## EDWARD III., of WINDSOR.

THE new monarch now being but fourteen years old,  
 A Protector was chosen the sceptre to hold;  
 But altho' neither wisdom nor prudence he lack'd,  
 Isabella and Mortimer governed *in fact*.  
 Now the foremost event in this notable reign  
 Was a battle: for Bruce and the Scots came again;  
 And, incensed at their desperate raids in the North,  
 The young monarch to meet them himself sallied forth.  
 But a few petty skirmishes, followed by truce,  
 Most decidedly ended in favour of Bruce:  
 And then Mortimer, daring his rights to exceed,  
 1328 On the part of King Edward, by treaty agreed

- HISTORY:** That the English o'er Scotland should not domineer,  
**The** Nor in choosing her monarch again interfere;  
**Planta-** Independent in future the Scotch should remain,  
**genets.**  
**A.D.**  
**1328** And their rights and their liberties fully retain.  
 Great disgust was expressed at this shameful attempt  
 To reduce the king's power to scorn and contempt.  
 At the treaty the king was himself much annoy'd,  
 And, tho' young, yet of spirit by no means devoid,  
 He resolved all the sway of a king to assert  
 And to humble this insolent lord to the dirt.  
 So at *Nottingham Castle* the traitor was seized,  
**1330** And his just execution the nation appeased.  
 Isabella, the friend of his evil career,  
 Was confined to her castle for many a year :  
 And when thus he had managed his pow'r to regain  
 The young monarch began *as a monarch* to reign.  
 Fresh disturbance in Scotland demanded his care :  
 Robert Bruce had just died, leaving *David* his heir,  
 But *his* claim was by *Baliol the younger* o'erthrown—  
 Who, assisted by Edward, ascended the throne.  
 Yet the reign of this monarch o'er Scotland was short ;  
 For, declaring he needed no further support  
 From the English, who crowned him (as mentioned before),  
 They to England returned : and a year was not o'er  
 Ere by David the heir he was fiercely opposed  
 And (soon getting worst of the battle) deposed.  
 But the monarch of England determined to bring  
 All his forces to aid the discomfited king ;  
**1333** And the battle of *Halidown Hill* was a fight  
 In which Edward evinced his superior might ;  
 For King David was conquered, resistance was vain,  
 And restored to his throne we find Baliol again :  
 Who, desirous of proving his grateful delight,  
 And the friendship of Edward to fitly requite,

HISTORY: All the south-east of Scotland, unmindful of thrift,  
 The Unto England gave up as a prodigal gift :  
 Planta- While the old Scottish nobles, so haughty before,  
 genetis. To the monarch of England their fealty swore.  
 A.D. 1333 (But ere risking the struggle King Edward, no doubt,  
 Had exactly foreseen how events would turn out !)

Yet another great conflict we have to record ;  
 For no sooner was quiet in Scotland restor'd,  
 Than King Edward took forcible means to advance  
 His pretensions to reign o'er the kingdom of France.  
 The French monarch had died without leaving heirs male,  
 And a female by law could not share the entail :  
 There were no other heirs ; so the Crown was assigned  
 To Prince *Philip of Valois* ; but Edward opined  
 Of obtaining the throne he had clearly a chance,  
 Through his mother (the Queen *Isabella of France*).  
 O'er the French, who by no means admitted his claim,  
 Many conquests redound to his glory and fame :  
 1340 He discovered, off *Sluys*, that the monarch of France  
 Had prepared a great fleet to oppose his advance ;  
 But, allied with the *Flemings*, such havoc he played  
 With the French men-of-war, that his entry he made  
 Into France without further repulse or attack,  
 And in triumph soon after to England came back.

But the truce was a short one ; the very next year  
 A discussion in *Brittany* came to his ear,  
 By *De Montfort* and *Charles*, Prince of *Blois*, carried on,  
 As to who should succeed on the death of Duke *John*.  
 Now, as Edward conceived that by joining the fray  
 He might reign over France at some earlier day,  
 He declared for *De Montfort*, despatching, of course,  
 A great army, the claims of the Count to enforce.



- HISTORY: But the rest of the French took the side of De Blois,  
 The And the consequence was a most desperate war.  
 Planta- An important engagement at *Crecy* was fought,  
 genets. A.D.  
 1346 Where, compared with the English, the French were as  
 nought ;  
 And the former a glorious victory won  
 Under Edward himself and the *Black Prince*, his son.  
 1347 And next, *Calais* surrendered, unable to stand  
 Any longer the force of his conquering hand :  
 'Twas besieged by the English for nearly a year,  
 But succumbed to their arms and a famine severe.

- While engaged in this siege there were troubles at home ;  
 David Bruce and the Scots having ventured to come  
 [1346] Into England, a battle ('twas near *Neville's Cross*)  
 Saw their armies defeated with serious loss :  
 1349 And a terrible plague over England now spread,  
 Which took rise in some portion of *Asia*, 'tis said :  
 The destruction of life filled the nation with awe  
 Which eclipsed for a time e'en the horrors of war.

- To the struggle in France we again must revert—  
 Where the King of *Navarre* tried, by force, to assert  
 His own right to the throne, which now vacant became  
 By the death of King Philip of Valois (the same  
 We have mentioned above, and whose son had pre-  
 sumed  
 That the Crown was for him, and the sceptre assumed).  
 Now King Edward no good opportunity lost  
 Of advancing his prospects, whatever it cost ;  
 So, espousing the cause of the King of *Navarre*,  
 1355 He at once was engaged in another great war.  
 But the greatest event of this famous campaign  
 Was a victory won by the *Black Prince* again,

- HISTORY: Who (surprised at *Poitiers* by a terrible force  
 The Of the French, who determined to hinder his course),  
 Planta- With an army far smaller than that of his foes,  
 genets. Showed the latter 'twas vain his advance to oppose ;
- A.D. By his prudence and skill, and consummate address,  
 1356 The French army were forced their defeat to confess.  
 The French monarch himself was a prisoner made,  
 And through London was led in triumphant parade ;  
 But his capture soon after resulted in peace,
- 1360 And the truce of *Bretigni* procured his release.  
 It was further agreed by the parties, that day,  
 That a ransom to Edward the captive should pay ;  
 And King Edward agreed for his part to pronounce  
 That his claim to the kingdom of France he'd renounce ;  
 And that *Normandy*, *Anjou*, with *Maine*, and *Touraine*,  
 Should belong to the French ; while some others, again,  
 Of importance, and very much greater extent,  
 Should be given to Edward, who then was content ;  
 And that France should renounce her intrigues with the  
       Scots,  
 On condition the English would cease their complots  
 With the Flemings ; thus ending this terrible strife  
 Between England and France, which for years had been  
       rife.
- 1361 Then the pestilence spread throughout England again :  
 And was followed soon after by troubles in *Spain*,  
 Where the brother of *Peter*, allied with the French,  
 Had been able the Crown from that monarch to wrench.  
 But the aid of the English Black Prince was implored,
- 1367 By whose arms at *Najara* the king was restored ;  
 Though his triumph was fleeting—not long did he reign,  
 Ere another affray saw him captured and slain.  
 Towards England the loosely-bound friendship of France  
 This affair of *Najara* could scarcely enhance ;

- HISTORY: And, in fact, 'twas not long ere a troublesome feud  
 The Recommenced the great strife at Bretigni subdued.  
 Plantagenets. It arose from a tax which King Edward imposed  
 A.D. On the *Gascons*, who showed themselves aught but disposed  
 1369 To an easy submission, but promptly rebelled,  
 And to crush them the king to take arms was compelled.  
 The French monarch, King Charles, for the *Gascons*  
 declared,  
 And to France with great forces the Black Prince repaired.  
 But his pride and his glory now met with a fall—  
 His attacks on the French weren't successful at all;  
 And at last, when he found his attempts of no use,  
 1374 He suspended his efforts and called for a truce.  
 Nearly all the possessions which England had held  
 Were retaken by France; and King Edward beheld  
 That the whole of his conquests the French had regained,  
 Except Calais, which still to the English remained.  
 1377 With the death of the king (after that of his son,  
 The Black Prince) with this notable reign we have done:  
 But the prince left a son, who, when Edward had gone,  
 As King Richard the Second ascended the throne.

1377 RICHARD II., of BORDEAUX.

- 1381 WHEN this monarch had peacefully reigned for some years  
 A disturbance in *Kent* roused his serious fears:  
 It was caused by a tax on the people imposed,  
 And by *Tyler*, that truculent rebel, opposed:  
 He was fit for their leader—himself driven wild  
 By an insult the gatherers offered his child;  
 And, collecting a rabble of friends to assist,  
 He prepared the unpopular tax to resist.  
 On the side of the mob, in this small civil war,  
 Were *Wat Tyler*, *Hob Carter*, *Tom Miller*, *Jack Straw*:

HISTORY: They made ravages all over London, and robbed  
 The Plantagenets. The abodes of the rich, whom they shamefully mobbed ;  
 But on Tyler's presuming too freely to speak  
 To King Richard himself, in a moment of *pique*,  
 A.D. He was struck to the ground by the faithful Lord Mayor,  
 1381 And dispatched ere the crowd of his fall was aware.  
 Then the rebels, through Richard's great prudence and tact,  
 Thought it safer the struggle no more to protract :  
 But the ringleaders met with the usual fate—  
 Which the king did not care to avert or abate.

1384 (The decease of *John Wycliffe*, of whom all have heard  
 As the chief of the *Lollards*, in this year occur'd.)—

Now the king had two friends, *De la Pole* and *De Vere*,  
 Earls of *Suffolk* and *Oxford*, both equally dear ;  
 But the harsh Duke of *Gloucester*, who wished for a voice  
 In his nephew's affairs, disapproved of his choice :  
 The two favourites Gloucester took every mode  
 Into anger, or rather rebellion, to goad ;  
 And, upheld by the nobles, the duke so contrived  
 That the minions at length were of power deprived ;  
 While he further endeavoured the king to enrage  
 By curtailing his sway on account of his *age* ;  
 And from Parliament managed permission to gain  
 That himself over England as Regent should reign.  
 (In this year *Percy Hotspur* in rivalry strove

1388 With young *Douglas*, at *Otterburn* : each sought to prove  
 The superior worth of his family name  
 And establish in battle his courage and fame.  
 But brave Douglas was slain in this rash escapade,  
 While the fiery Hotspur a captive was made ;  
 And their valour and pluck have for ever a place  
 In the popular poem or song, "*Chevy Chase*."

HISTORY: There was passed at this time a remarkable Act,  
 The *Præmunire* called—which severely attack'd  
 The exorbitant power of Rome through the realm,  
 A.D. Lest the monarch himself it should wholly o'erwhelm :  
 1392 'Twas enacted that *persons procuring from Rome*  
*Any " Bulls," or aggressive injunctions, should come*  
*To account for their deeds to a council of State,*  
*And perchance become outlawed, or lose their estate.*

The young monarch, though scarce two-and-twenty  
 years old,  
 Now determined his rights as a king to uphold ;  
 And the arrogant Gloucester was soon made aware  
 Of the change which had come o'er his nephew ; for ere  
 His cabals and his plots were complete, he was seized,  
 1397 And his death all the fears of King Richard appeased.

But a far greater enemy rose in his place—  
*Henry Lancaster*, banished from court in disgrace,  
 On his father's decease (which occurred at this date)  
 Hurried back to assume the paternal estate.

Now King Richard was bent on the very same course,  
 And he seized the estates without shame or remorse ;  
 1399 So the young Duke of Lancaster summoned his friends  
 To assist him by force in obtaining amends.  
 He was joined by the two greatest dukes in the land,  
 And of powerful forces he soon had command.  
 No engagement, however, took place, for the king  
 Was unable his army to battle to bring :  
 They deserted in numbers to Lancaster's side,  
 And the wrath of the impotent monarch defied.  
 He was speedily captured, in prison confined,  
 And, despairing, soon after the sceptre resigned ;

**HISTORY:** When, elated with easy success and renown,  
**The** The victorious duke turned his thoughts to the Crown.  
**Planta-** He was son (as he took this occasion to vaunt)  
**genets.** Of the *fourth* son of *Edward the Third, John of Gaunt* :  
 While his mother, he quite as correctly averr'd,  
 Was no distant relation of *Henry the Third*.  
 These pretensions appeared very plausible ; yet  
 They were certainly bad, for we must not forget  
 That the grandson of *Lionel* (*Edward's third son*),  
 After Richard, had far better rights to the throne ;  
 But as he was a child, and the duke would have brooked  
 No such puny a rival, his claims were o'erlooked ;  
**A.D.** And, in short, by his daring and promptness alone,  
**1399** The usurper, as *Henry the Fourth*, took the throne ;  
 While King Richard, soon after, as many suppose,  
 In the *Castle of Pomfret* was killed by his foes.

*Here again we must pause ere commencing anew,  
 And the HOUSE OF PLANTAGENET briefly review:—  
 Between prelate and prince we remember that strife  
 In the reign of King Henry the Second was rife ;  
 And that Thomas à Becket, the troublesome priest,  
 Didn't care for the threats of the king in the least—  
 And, in consequence, how a great council was called,  
 Whose decisive enactments the clergy appalled :  
 How à Becket was slain with officious despatch,  
 And how Henry for Ireland was more than a match.  
 We have read of the monarch for war all athirst—  
 That redoubted Crusader, King Richard the First :  
 Of the troubles of John, both abroad and at home,  
 And his terrible feud with the Pontiff of Rome :  
 His unpopular rule—which resulted, in fine,  
 In his being compelled Magna Charta to sign.*

**HISTORY:** *We have seen how the Crown to the nobles deferr'd*  
**The House** *In the reign of the weak-minded Henry the Third—*  
**of**  
**Lancaster.** *With what dogged persistence they quarrell'd and brawled*  
*Till De Montfort the first English Parliament called.*  
*Under Edward the First we have read the details*  
*Of the causes that led to the conquest of Wales :*  
*Of the troubles in Scotland, and Edward's decree*  
*As to who was entitled her monarch to be :*  
*Of the subsequent wars with that country maintained,*  
*Till the Scottish allegiance at last was obtained.*  
*We remember, however, how bold Robert Bruce,*  
*With a bravery nothing but hate could induce,*  
*Re-awakened the feud in the very next reign*  
*And a glorious victory managed to gain :*  
*How the king was deposed by the queen and her friend ;*  
*And the tragical manner he came to his end.*  
*We remember, moreover, how Edward the Third*  
*To be king over France a weak title preferr'd :*  
*The persistence with which he supported his claim,*  
*And the glorious conquests that brightened his fame.*  
*We have read of the prince who by death was struck down*  
*Ere his father's decease rendered vacant the Crown :*  
*Of King Richard the Second, his son, in whose reign*  
*The impertinent rebel Wat Tyler was slain ;*  
*And, at last, how this monarch, the last of the Line,*  
*Was by Lancaster driven the Crown to resign.*

## THE HOUSE OF LANCASTER.

A.D.

1399

HENRY IV., of BOLINGBROKE.

BUT two years after Henry had come into power  
 He was plunged into war with the Welshman Glendower ;



HISTORY: And the army he sent with the Welsh to compete  
 The House At the battle of *Knyghton* sustained a defeat.  
 of  
 Lancaster. Then the king, after putting down several plots  
 Which were formed to depose him, made war on the  
 Scots.

When success against these had attended his arms  
 A more serious struggle aroused his alarms :  
 The two *Percies* (the earl, and young *Hotspur*, his son)  
 A small victory over the Scotch having won,  
 Were enjoined by the king, when hostilities ceased,  
 That the captives they'd taken should not be released.  
 The king thought their detention might prove of good use  
 In completing a more advantageous truce ;  
 But the *Percies* desired their ransoms—and swore  
 That this course was opposed to the customs of war.  
 As the king remained firm, the two *Percies* prepared  
 To resist his authority ; war was declared,  
 And the traitorous lords, with *Glendower's* support,  
 A great battle with *Henry* at *Shrewsbury* fought ;  
 But the king was victorious : *Hotspur* was slain,  
 And the royal dominion established again :  
 For altho' for some years such rebellions were rife  
 They were checked ere they grew into serious strife :—  
 Two conspiracies formed by *Northumberland* failed  
 (The particulars here need be scarcely detailed,  
 Save to mention that *Scrope*, the Archbishop of York,  
 Suffered death for his share in the traitorous work) ;  
 While the earl was at *Bramham* defeated and slain—  
 Which event is the last in this monarch's short reign ;  
 And he soon found that peace which on earth was denied,  
 For, a very few years after *Bramham*, he died ;  
 When his eldest son *Henry*, as might be presumed,  
 As King *Henry* the Fifth the dominion assumed.

A.D.  
 1403

1405

1408

1413

HISTORY :

The House  
of

HENRY V., of MONMOUTH.

Lancaster. THIS young monarch, although in his youth rather  
wild,

To his kingly position was soon reconcil'd ;  
And his subsequent actions most clearly evince  
That he lacked not the qualities fitting a prince.

Ere we further proceed we must shortly relate  
How Lord *Cobham*, the heretic, met with his fate :  
He was chief of the *Lollards*, a party or sect  
Who contrived by their preachings much ill to effect ;  
They were banned by the Church, and with insult pursued,  
But continued to thrive—till a tumult ensued ;  
When Lord *Cobham*, their chief, was to prison consigned  
[1417] And the death of a heretic shortly assigned.

A.D.

1413

[1417]

A great struggle with France fills the rest of this reign ;  
For, like Edward the Third, so this monarch again  
(Being eager for fresh acquisitions and fame)  
1414 To the throne of that country put forward a claim.  
Through the madness of *Charles*, the French king, there  
arose

Much disorder and strife, as we well can suppose :  
For the office of Regent two candidates fought,  
And, perceiving their struggles, the English king thought  
That the moment was fitting his schemes to advance  
And insure a successful invasion of France.

After sundry small triumphs, he managed to gain  
The great battle which ended this famous campaign ;—

1415

On the plains before *Agincourt*, English and French  
Were engaged with a fury no bloodshed could quench ;  
Till, perceiving 'twas vain with the foe to compete,  
The French army acknowledged their utter defeat ;

HISTORY: So the king granted peace (which in truth was well earned),  
 The House of And then, covered with glory, to England returned.  
 Lancaster.

- This defeat of the French scarce sufficed to assuage  
 Their internal dissensions, which ceased not to rage  
 Altho' Henry made frequent attacks on the coast,  
 And in less than a year was enabled to boast  
 That, while France with her struggles was all in a maze,  
 A.D. 1419 He had conquered *Rouen*, with *Evreux* and *Falaise*.  
 Then the young Duke of *Burgundy* dared to propose  
 An iniquitous scheme the French king to depose,  
 And to give, by his traitorous efforts alone,  
 To the monarch of England the coveted throne.  
 In return for this gift he expressed a desire  
 That the English should help to avenge his dead sire,  
 Who was murdered, 'tis said, by the opposite side,  
 And whose slayer he vowed to pursue till he died.  
 This request was so modest that Henry resolved  
 To accede to his wishes, and all they involved ;  
 1420 So the treaty of *Troyes* was concluded and signed,  
 And the kingdom of France to King Henry resigned.  
 But the Dauphin, on hearing of Burgundy's plots,  
 Being strengthened by opportune aid from the Scots,  
 Made a desperate effort to crush the allies,  
 1421 And at *Baugé* a victory gained by surprise.  
 But the scale was soon turned by the duke and his friend,  
 And the Dauphin's defeat brought the war to an end :  
 As it did the king's reign, for a year had but flown  
 Ere his sudden decease rendered vacant the throne :  
 Having chosen a Regent o'er France to preside,  
 1422 And another for England, he sickened and died.

HISTORY:  
The House  
of  
Lancaster.

## HENRY VI. of WINDSOR.

A.D.  
1422

His successor was Henry the Sixth, his young son,  
Who was nine months of age when his reign had begun ;  
So the country was ruled by the Regent alone,  
Till the juvenile king had a will of his own.  
We at once must revert to the obstinate feud  
Between England and France : for the war was renew'd,  
And the prowess of England for several years  
Kept alive in the French the most serious fears.  
The first notable battle, so far as one gleans  
From authentic accounts, was the siege of *Orleans* :  
For some months 'twas exposed to the terrible brunt  
Of the English assault—when there came to the front  
A remarkable heroine, known as *Joan D'Arc*  
Who, inspired, she said, by a heavenly spark,  
Vowed to save the doomed city, and never to blench  
From the fray till the victory lay with the French.  
When the men of Orleans with astonishment saw  
Their deliverer fully equipped for the war,  
All their spirits revived, and they swore to defend  
The dismantled and tottering walls to the end.  
With a warrior's courage the heroine fought,  
And with speedy success her devotion was fraught ;  
For the English, o'ercome with a curious dread  
Of so novel an enemy, wavered and fled ;  
Then the French on her banner of victory gazed,  
And they knew that the siege of Orleans was raised !  
But, alas ! the young heroine met with a fate  
Which arouses our sorrow and pain to relate :—  
Being captured at last in some petty affray,  
She was tried as a witch—and in prison she lay  
Till, altho' further part in the war she renouced,  
The iniquitous sentence of death was pronounced :

1428

1429

HISTORY: In the market of *Rouen* a fire was laid,  
 The House of Lancaster. To whose flames they consigned the unfortunate maid !  
 O'er her agonised throes we would fain draw a veil—  
 A.D. 1431 And conclude this most touching historical tale.

But her death was avenged, for in France, from this date,  
 The success of the English began to abate :  
 1435 By a treaty, at *Arras*, young Burgundy swore  
 That he'd lend them his valued assistance no more ;  
 The result of which was that their armies, of course,  
 Lacking Burgundy's aid, were much weakened in force.  
*Charles the Seventh* of France saw his country a wreck,  
 And determined the pride of the English to check :  
 A succession of triumphs attended his arms,  
 And aroused in the English well-founded alarms ;  
 Till at length of their conquests but *Calais* remained  
 (Which since Edward the Third they had always retained) ;  
 And 'twas then, long deprived of the blessings of peace,  
 [1453] The two countries agreed that their struggles should cease.

1445 The young monarch of England was now twenty-three,  
 But of weak understanding, 'twas easy to see ;  
 And this year, through the hated Earl Suffolk's *finesse*,  
 He espoused Lady *Margaret*, *Anjou's* princess ;  
 And surrendered (with singular absence of thrift)  
 To her uncle, the province of *Maine* as a gift.  
 He made Suffolk a duke ; and connived at the fall  
 Of the good Duke of *Gloucester*, respected by all ;  
 At which conduct the wrath of the nation found vent  
 In a sudden revolt of the people of *Kent* :  
 1450 At their head was *Jack Cade* ; who, assuming the name  
 Of *John Mortimer*, strove their disgust to inflame :  
 He assembled a mob, on *Blackheath* they encamped—  
 But their ardour for strife and rebellion was damped

HISTORY: By the downfall of Cade, who (tho' pardoned at first)  
 The House of Lancaster. Was arrested and slain—when the rabble dispers'd.

A.D.

1453

Then the queen by the birth of a son was made glad :  
 Then the never-too-sensible monarch went mad.  
 And his feeble, incompetent rule was the cause  
 (To a certain extent) of the fierce civil wars  
 Which are known as the " Wars of the Roses," and  
       raged  
 Thirty years, ere the terrible feud was assuaged.

We remember that Henry the Fourth took the throne  
 As the heir of his sire, John of Gaunt (the *fourth* son  
 Of King Edward the Third), thus ignoring the claim  
 Of the grandson of *Clarence* (the *third* son), by name  
*Edmund Mortimer* : now the usurper's own son,  
 And the son of *that* son, had each come to the throne ;  
 But the latter (the king on whose reign we're employed),  
 When the ill-gotten sceptre thus long he'd enjoyed,  
 Was obliged for his grandfather's wrong to atone,  
 And defend his own dubious right to the throne.  
 All the males of the Mortimer branch were extinct ;  
 But the last of that line had a sister ; who, link'd  
 At the altar with *Richard of Cambridge*, begat  
 A son *Richard* ; and he, when at manhood's estate,  
 Was determined the wrongs of his house to redress  
 And his rival, the king, of his crown dispossess.

No avenger was ever more fit for the work  
 Than the wealthy and powerful Richard of York ;  
 And, supported by *Warwick*, the earl, who was known  
 As the *King Maker* (why, will hereafter be shown),  
 1454 He was chosen *Protector* of England until  
 The poor king his own duties of state could fulfil.

HISTORY: The result was that, having thus tasted the might  
 The House Of a king (which, moreover, he thought was his right),  
 of Lancaster. Haughty Richard refused to relinquish his sway,  
 Or the will of so feeble a king to obey.

A.D. But the monarch recovered—his wrath was incensed,  
 1455 And the Wars of the Roses in earnest commenced !

At *St. Alban's* the king fell a captive of war,  
 And the Crown to his rival was forced to give o'er :  
 1456 But it soon was restored, and the monarch again  
 Was allowed for a time to continue his reign.  
 Then the strife re-commenced : at *Northampton* the king  
 1460 Being captured again, the duke managed to wring  
 From the Peers and the Commons a promise that he  
 On the death of King Henry their ruler should be.  
 But Queen Margaret, eager his pride to rebuke,  
 Took up arms to oppose the victorious duke ;  
 1460 When at *Wakefield* the armies encountered again  
 The king's cause was triumphant, and Richard was slain :  
 But his sword was assumed by young *Edward*, his son,  
 1461 Who at *Mortimer's Cross* a small victory won.  
 Still the resolute queen was a stranger to fear,  
 And, renewing the struggle the very same year,  
 Turned the scales at *St. Alban's* ; and Henry her lord  
 Once again to his freedom and friends she restor'd.  
 Her available strength was, however, as nought  
 When compared with the forces which *Edward* now brought ;  
 And, perceiving her efforts must end in defeat,  
 She declined the engagement, and beat a retreat—  
 Thus allowing young *Edward* in peace to proceed  
 Into London ; and there it was gravely decreed  
 That the Crown should be his ; when in sorrow and wrath  
 1461 The late king saw his foe proclaimed *Edward the Fourth*.



HISTORY: *The Lancastrian rule, in duration tho' short,*  
 The House of York. *With important events and engagements was fraught :*  
*There came first the Welsh battles of Henry the Fourth—*  
*And his feud with the Percies for braving his wrath :*  
*Then the wars of King Henry the Fifth—to advance*  
*His unworthy pretensions to reign over France.*  
*How the strife by the treaty of Troyes was subdued,*  
*Till by Henry the Sixth once again 'twas renewed—*  
*We have read : while our verses succinctly relate*  
*How the famous Joan D'Arc met her barbarous fate.*  
*We have seen how the rule of the king slowly waned*  
*Till at last of his power there nothing remained :*  
*How Jack Cade tried the flame of rebellion to fan—*  
*And, in fine, how the Wars of the Roses began :*  
*All of this and much more we have read in the text,*  
*But, as usual, an ABSTRACT thereof is annex'd.*

## THE HOUSE OF YORK.

A.D.

1461

## EDWARD IV.

BUT King Henry had loyal supporters as well ;  
 And of many a battle we still have to tell.  
 The Lancastrians choose a *Red Rose* as their sign—  
 While a *White Rose* distinguished the new royal line :  
 Both the Roses for valour and courage were famed,  
 And 'twas thus that the "*Wars of the Roses*" were named.  
 Now the strife was reopened : Queen Margaret sought  
 1461 For revenge—and at *Towton* a battle was fought  
 In which York was triumphant ; and Margaret fled  
 With her husband to Scotland ; when Edward 'tis said  
 By the Commons and Peers was again proclaimed lord  
 O'er the whole of the land which he'd won by the sword.  
 But the queen, tho' repulsed, was by no means subdued :  
 With assistance from France the fierce war she renewed ;

- HISTORY : At the battle of *Hedgley* she met with defeat,  
 The House of York. And at *Hexham* was also obliged to retreat :  
 A.D. Her unfortunate husband was captured again,  
 1464 And in prison some years was allowed to remain :—  
 But King Edward now angered proud Warwick, the earl,  
 By espousing *Miss Woodville*, a beautiful girl,  
 Though (as Warwick declared) of too lowly descent  
 To entitle the match to the nation's consent.  
 The dislike which the queen to himself clearly bore  
 Soon incensed the disgust of the earl more and more :  
 He revoked his allegiance, and offered his aid  
 In support of King Henry : the force thus array'd  
 Against Edward was vast ; for besides these two foes  
 His own brother, young *Clarence*, against him uprose ;  
 While an army by *Louis*, of France, was despatched  
 Which so strengthened their force that the king, over-  
                   matched,  
 1470 Fled the country—and then, to his joy and surprise,  
 The late king was restored by his friends and allies :  
 He was once more as monarch of England proclaimed,  
 While Earl Warwick and Clarence as regents were  
                   named,  
 Since the health of the king (not to mention his *brain*)  
 Was too feeble as yet to allow him to reign.

- Thus the *King-maker*, Warwick, the throne had procured  
 For two kings (he crowned Edward, and Henry restored) ;  
 But his fall was at hand—for King Edward, who burned  
 For revenge, with a powerful army returned ;  
 1471 And at *Barnet* (the scene of a terrible fight)  
 Haughty Warwick was slain, and his force put to flight,  
 While Queen Margaret, seeking his loss to repair,  
 1471 Fought a battle with Edward at *Tewkesbury*, where

HISTORY: By the Yorkists a glorious triumph was won,  
 The House of York. And the queen taken captive, with Edward her son :  
 A.D. This young prince suffered death, and his sire was again  
 1471 Thrust in prison ; where either he died or was slain.  
 The Lancastrian party was thus overthrown,  
 And the White Rose in triumph restored to the throne.

At the rest of this reign we but shortly shall glance,  
 For the only event was a struggle with France—  
 Which resulted in nothing except the release  
 Of Queen Margaret—one of the terms of the peace  
 1475 Of *Pecquigny* : while, just ere the close of his reign  
 The king's treacherous brother, Duke Clarence was slain,  
 1478 Being drowned in a hogshead of malmsey, one reads,  
 As a fitting reward for his traitorous deeds.  
 Then the king, by a fatal distemper borne down,  
 1483 Breathed his last, leaving Edward, his son, to the Crown ;  
 But appointing his brother to rule in the land  
 As the prince was too young for the royal command.

1483 EDWARD V.

Now the Regent, Duke *Gloucester*, of hated renown,  
 Had in secret determined to seize on the Crown ;  
 And, by measures unlawful increasing his sway,  
 Put in prison or killed all who stood in his way :—  
 He ascended the throne when his schemes were mature,  
 And, his doubtful position to further secure,  
 He procured some assassins to smother, 'tis said,  
 His two nephews (the king and his brother) in bed !

1483 RICHARD III., surnamed CROOKBACK.

THE usurper then hastened his friends to reward,  
 And to load them with proofs of his worthy (!) regard :

HISTORY: But the great Duke of *Buckingham*, once his best  
The House of York. friend,

Now resolved that his power should come to an end:  
From obsequious courtier to insolent foe  
The transition was neither uncertain nor slow;  
And the envious duke, without deigning excuse,  
A.D. 1483 Strove his utmost the might of the king to reduce.

John of Gaunt was twice married : his second wife bore  
A son, *John*, surnamed *Beaufort* (not mentioned before) ;  
And John Beaufort had likewise a son christened *John*,  
Who'd a daughter called *Margaret* :—she had a son  
By her spouse *Edmund Tudor*, of *Richmond*—a name  
Which the deeds of their son raised to honour and fame.

Upon *him* (Henry Tudor) the duke cast his eye  
As a likely young champion the king to defy—  
Well aware that the latter was hated and feared  
While the youth had been long to the people endeared.  
That the moment was fitting young Richmond could see,  
And resolved that he soon King of England would be.  
1485 Civil war was declared ; but at first the king's arms  
Were successful, and roused his young rival's alarms :  
Nor did Buckingham aught by his treachery gain,  
In the first of the fray being captured and slain.  
But Earl Richmond was stedfast of purpose, and brave,  
1485 And to Richard at *Bosworth* a fresh battle gave—  
When the earl was triumphant, King Richard was killed,  
And the mission of Henry of Richmond fulfilled :  
For the Crown was decreed to the victor that day,  
And, as *Henry the Seventh*, all bowed to his sway.

*For but twenty-four years did the House of York reign,  
During which (tho' we pause to review them again),*

**HISTORY:** *Save the Wars of the Roses, which ceased not to rage,*  
**The House** *There is little that need our attention engage.*  
**of Tudor.** *We have seen how the warlike King Edward the Fourth*  
*Left the throne to his son ; and the murderous wrath*  
*Of his envious brother, whose malice and hate*  
*Were the cause of his children's unmerited fate ;*  
*And how soon the usurper was forced to oppose*  
*Henry Tudor of Richmond—the worst of his foes ;*  
*And at Bosworth at last was obliged to atone*  
*For the dastardly crime which had gained him the throne.*

### THE HOUSE OF TUDOR.

A.D.

1485

HENRY VII., of RICHMOND.

THROUGHOUT England the joy at his triumph was great,  
 Nor did any mourn Richard's well-merited fate ;  
 And the conqueror married, to strengthen his cause,  
 1486 A fair *Yorkist* princess, with her party's applause,  
 And with that of his own, the *Lancastrian* side—  
 Thus allowing the lingering feud to subside  
 Which had burned in the breasts of Red Rose and White,  
 Till by marriage at last 'twas for ever set right !

But the Crown, thus procured by superior force,  
 Caused the victor some strife to keep sacred, of course :  
 As a monarch by conquest is ne'er without foes,  
 Many serious plots against Henry arose.

*Lambert Simnel*, a baker, scarce fifteen years old,  
 But of good education, both cunning and bold  
 (And conceited enough for a monarch at least),  
 Being promoted thereto by one *Simon*, a priest,  
 Dared to spread a report that young *Richard of York*  
 (Whose sad fate we have mentioned before in this work)

**HISTORY:** Had contrived, when his brother was smothered, to baulk  
**The House of Tudor.** The revenge of his uncle ; which tale was the talk  
 Of the town—but soon after, absurd as it seems,  
 This impostor devised a new turn for his schemes,  
 And declared he was *Warwick* (the son of renowned  
 George of Clarence, the duke who in Malmsey was  
 drowned):

**A.D.** This young earl after Bosworth was seized, and confin'd  
**1487** In the Tower ; but somehow a rumour got wind  
 He'd escaped—and the impudent Simnel declared  
 That the earl and himself were *the same* ; and prepared  
 To enforce the pretensions he thus had acquired  
 To the kingdom of England : but Henry, inspired  
 By a happy device the bold knave to confound,  
 Made the captive parade through the city, and round  
 Old St. Paul's, in full view of the mob—for the sake  
 Of a clear demonstration of Simnel's *mistake* !  
 'Twas successful ; and England took steps to evince  
 Her disgust at the fraud : but it failed to convince  
 The soft Irish, who still in young Simnel retained  
 Their belief—and secure in their land he remained.  
 Besides these, there were others impressed with his worth,  
 And among them, two sisters of Edward the Fourth—  
 Who were joined by a German named *Swartz*, and a  
 force  
 From that country : but Henry, perceiving their course,  
 Unless checked, would undoubtedly lead to a war,  
 Now resolved all the hopes of the traitor to mar.

With a powerful army he crushed the allies  
**1497** At the battle of *Stoke* :—but, to Simnel's surprise,  
 He was pardoned, and granted an honest employ  
 In the sovereign's kitchen—as scullery-boy!

HISTORY: And altho' the king's vengeance no further was pushed,  
 The House of Tudor. This important rebellion was utterly crushed.

Then the king undertook an invasion of France,  
 At the details of which we but shortly need glance :  
 The French monarch, King *Charles*, of his prowess too vain,  
 The whole province of *Brittany* sought to obtain :  
 His success gave offence to King Henry, who tried  
 By some taxes (*Benevolences*) to provide  
 Enough money to make a revengeful attack  
 Upon France ; but his warlike designs seemed to lack  
 Force and energy—ever important in war,

A.D.

1492

And his enterprise therefore was not carried far.  
 At *Etaples* a truce was concluded, by which  
 The dispute was made up without trouble or hitch .  
 'Twas agreed that o'er *Brittany* Charles should hold sway,  
 But a large sum of money to Henry should pay.

Then another rebellion disturbed the king's peace,  
 And with that of young *Simnel* was all of a piece ;  
 The report (which we know was not true) again spread  
 That the hapless youth *Richard* of York was not dead,  
 But preparing his claim to the Crown to put forth  
 As the son of a monarch—King *Edward* the Fourth.  
*Perkin Warbeck*, a well-born, respectable youth,  
 Said that *he* was the duke ; and, accepting as truth  
 His assertion, the Scotch and the Irish, it seems,  
 Gave their hearty assistance to forward his schemes.  
 He proceeded to France, and was there well received—  
 For King *Charles* in his foolish pretensions believed ;  
 But King *Henry* took resolute means to put down  
 The rebellion that threatened himself and his Crown :  
 After years of resistance and varied success  
 1499 *Perkin Warbeck* surrendered—but, nevertheless,



HISTORY: Was confined in the Tower, whence, seeking to fly,  
 The House of Tudor. He was forthwith adjudged as a traitor to die.  
 The last years of this reign may be shortly reviewed :—  
 With a craving for money the king was imbued,  
 And in *Empson* and *Dudley*, two “limbs of the law,”  
 Fitting tools for his greed and oppression he saw :  
 Such extortions and fines from the people were wrung,  
 That the victims might well to revolt have been stung—  
 A.D. 1509 When the death of the miserly, covetous king  
 Some relief to their hardships seemed likely to bring:  
 He appointed his second son, Henry, his heir  
 (Which, as *Arthur*, the elder, had died, was but fair);  
 And, as *Henry the Eighth*, of uxorious fame,  
 This young prince to the throne of his father now came.

1509

## HENRY VIII.

THE first year of his reign the king chose as a wife  
 The fair widow of Arthur his brother, whose life  
 Was cut off, as we've mentioned before; and then took  
 1510 Speedy means to bring *Empson* and *Dudley* to book.  
 Then, in order his glory and fame to enhance,  
 The young monarch made war upon Scotland and France :  
 1513 At the battle of *Guinegate*, the French, overaw'd,  
 Made a far better use of the *spur* than the sword !  
 While, at *Flodden*, the English Earl *Surrey* opposed  
 And defeated the Scots—both campaigns were then closed.

Now the great *Thomas Wolsey* appeared on the scene :  
 Dean of *Lincoln*, and chaplain to Henry he'd been ;  
 Then Archbishop of *York* ; then a Cardinal : next  
 To his titles “ Lord Chancellor ” Henry annex'd ;  
 And 'twas now that this truly remarkable man

1515

To assert his unlimited power began.

HISTORY: Tho' 'twas neither his glory nor might to enhance,  
 The House of Tudor. Shortly after, King Henry returned into France :  
 For, to check the o'erweening ambition of *Spain*,  
 The French monarch, King Francis the First, sought to gain  
 An alliance with Henry, by asking him o'er  
 With the whole of his *suite* to the opposite shore.  
 A.D. 1520 On a field near to *Calais* they met : and we're told  
 So resplendent they shone in their trappings of gold  
 That the *rendezvous* since has been known as the "*Field  
 Of the Cloth of Gold*:" here all the rancour was heal'd  
 Which had harassed their breasts in the recent campaign,  
 And as friends and allies they agreed to remain.

Now the great "Reformation," by *Luther* commenced,  
 The disgust of the Catholic monarch incensed :  
 Against Luther a hostile position he took,  
 And attacked his heretical views in a *book*.  
 Then the Pope was so pleased with this righteous prince,  
 That, in order his grateful esteem to evince,  
 1521 He dubbed Henry "Defender o' th' Faith"—to which name  
 All the subsequent sovereigns of England laid claim.

Then the king, who was fickle, grew sick of his spouse,  
 1527 And he sought to procure a release from his vows :  
 He declared that his marriage with Catherine prey'd  
 On his mind as *unholy*—and seemed much afraid  
 That, in wedding the wife of his brother deceased,  
 He'd committed a sin : while his scruples increased  
 As he saw that the personal charms of his queen  
 Were by no means so great as they'd formerly been !  
 Having called upon Wolsey the matter to sift,  
 That obsequious statesman, perceiving his drift,  
 Tried his best to obtain the required divorce,  
 Which alone could allay the good monarch's remorse.

- HISTORY: But *Campeggio*, Legate of *Clement*, the pope,  
 The House So delayed the decision that Henry lost hope ;  
 of Tudor. And found vent for his spleen upon Wolsey himself,  
 Whom he forthwith deprived of the whole of his pelf,  
 A.D. And his goods and his chattels, his honours and trust,  
 1529 While their quondam possessor in prison was thrust :  
 Then his pardon was granted—but soon was reversed,  
 And his character freely condemned and aspersed ;  
 He was seized for high treason—but death was too quick  
 For his mortal opponents, for Wolsey fell sick  
 1530 Ere his trial took place ; and soon afterwards died  
 This unfortunate man, who at least had e'er tried  
 To be true to the monarch who once was his friend,  
 But whose tyrannous vengeance thus hastened his end.

- Still resolved on divorce, the king tried to persuade  
*Thomas Cranmer*, the Primate, to come to his aid ;  
 1533 And this Churchman, foreseeing how much might be  
 gained  
 By compliance, *decreed it*—and nothing remained  
 But for Henry at once to the world to proclaim  
 That *Anne Boleyn* now shared both his Crown and his  
 name :  
 While poor Catherine, when she was told of her fate,  
 Mourned in silence the slight which no time could abate.

- Now the Pope would not sanction such conduct at all,  
 And he hoped by his anger the king to appal ;  
 But the latter, his Catholic scruples o'ercome,  
 Tried his utmost to hasten a rupture with Rome :  
 1534 He passed several statutes to lessen the might  
 Of the Pope throughout England—denying his right  
 To make bishops, send “ Bulls,” or receive as a due  
 Any taxes from England : confirming anew

HISTORY: His espousals with Anne, and the prior divorce—  
The House of Tudor. Just to show that he felt neither fear nor remorse.

By these steps, at which briefly above we have glanced,  
Was the cause of the great Reformation advanced ;  
And when *Fisher*, the Bishop of *Rochester*, dared  
To demur to the marriage, his life was not spared :  
A.D. *Thomas More*, the Lord Chancellor, also met death  
1535 For presuming to raise a dissentient breath.

But the monarch was fickle, as mentioned before :  
He grew tired of Anne ; and a year was not o'er  
Ere a charge of light conduct against her preferr'd,  
Was adjudged to be proven—and forthwith she heard  
1536 The dread sentence of death, which was soon put in force,  
And the king took *Jane Seymour* to wife in due course.

(*Tho' 'tis scarcely important, a moment we pause  
Just to say that now Wales was placed under our laws.*)

But this marriage, the rupture with Rome, and the state  
Of the Church, caused in England much anger and hate :  
A religious revolt now took rise in the North,  
1536 When the *Pilgrims of Grace* on their mission came forth,  
And their faith to preserve, the old Church to restore,  
And to punish all heretics solemnly swore ;  
But attempting their ends to accomplish by force,  
Twas determined to check their impetuous course :  
The chief rioter, *Aske*, was a prisoner made,  
And by rigorous means the disturbance allay'd.

But soon after the monarch resolved to suppress  
All the convents and houses religious, no less  
On account of their wealth, which he wished to possess,  
Than the nation to free from all popish duress :

HISTORY: 'Twas accordingly done—to the sovereign's hands  
 The House of Tudor. Was transferred the great bulk of their riches and lands :  
 Thus the sway of the Pope and his agents was curbed,  
 And the Catholic party dismayed and perturbed ;  
 But the king, ever changeable, vowed to maintain  
 Certain parts of that faith which was under his bane ;  
 And the Protestant party were no less appalled  
 A.D. By an Act which was passed, the *Six Articles* called :  
 1539 As it certainly favoured the Catholic side,  
 By the Protestant party 'twas warmly decried :  
 Let this statement suffice—for our space is too short  
 To describe all the terms of this Act as we ought.

The Queen Consort, Jane Seymour, had died, and the  
 king  
 To his nature uxorious once more gave swing :  
*Anne of Cleves*, a young German princess, was his choice,  
 1540 Of whose charms he was told by a flattering voice.  
 Ere they met he espoused her ; but what were his shame  
 And resentful disgust when he found that her claim  
 To good looks was a fraud and a hollow deceit,  
 While it now was too late to retract or retreat !  
 But the wrathful surprise of King Henry was such  
 When he found that his consort could only speak Dutch,  
 That he swore to divorce her—and managed so well  
 That 'twas done in less time than it takes us to tell.  
*Thomas Cromwell*, Earl *Essex*, the ill-advised man  
 Who had dared thus to heighten the charms of poor Anne,  
 Suffered death for his fraud, on the usual ground  
 Of high treason, for which a true bill was soon found.  
 Having thus on the flatterer vented his spleen,  
 The king sought for another more suitable queen :  
 He was shortly successful, and took, the same year,  
 Lady *Catherine Howard* his old age to cheer.

- HISTORY: But, alas, his domestic felicity ran,  
 The House As on former occasions, a very short span ;  
 of Tudor. And the wrath of the monarch now broke out anew  
 A. D. When he found that the queen to her vows was not true :  
 1512 He decreed she should pay for her sins with her life,  
 And a year had scarce flown ere he took a new wife.

*Now the Scots had made several obstinate raids  
 On the borders of England, advancing by grades  
 Into Cumberland ; when, near the great Solway Moss,  
 They were met by the English and routed with loss.*

But the sixth and last queen (*Lady Catherine Parr*)  
 Was of all the king's wives the most prudent by far ;  
 She so flattered the monarch and led him so well  
 That his dangerous temper she managed to quell ;  
 And by yielding a little, yet showing no fear,  
 She survived the fierce monarch by more than a year.

- 1544 The remaining events are—the capture from France  
 Of *Boulogne* : and the death (for presuming to glance  
 At the monarch's own daughter as fit for his wife)  
 1547 Of Earl *Surrey*, who paid for his love with his life :  
 Into prominence neither of these we need bring,  
 But may pass on at once to the death of the king,  
 Which took place through ill-health, by his temper increased,  
 And this year saw the terrible monarch deceased :  
 When the young Prince of Wales, as it might be presumed,  
 As King *Edward the Sixth* the dominion assumed.

1547

EDWARD VI.

LEST the cares of the state the young king should o'erwhelm,  
 His own uncle, Duke *Somerset*, governed the realm.

**HISTORY:** In this monarch's short reign Reformation progressed,  
**The House** And to plant it more firmly the king did his best :  
**of Tudor.** He was aided by Cranmer, of famous renown,  
 But who died for the cause, as will shortly be shown.

A great war with the Scots served the king to perplex  
 The first year of his reign, for he sought to annex  
 Unto England their country in union compact,  
**A.D.** While that nation determined to keep it intact ;  
**1547** So at *Pinkie* they met in a terrible fray,  
 When the English by far got the best of the day ;  
 But they did not pursue their advantage this year,  
 For a plot against Somerset came to his ear.

*We must shortly record, ere this plot be revealed,  
 That the Act of Six Articles now was repealed  
 By the efforts of Somerset, equally warm  
 With King Edward himself in the work of reform.*

Now the foe with whom Somerset had to compete  
 Was Lord Seymour, his brother, the head of the fleet :  
 He had married the dowager, Catherine Parr,  
 And through envy determined his brother to mar ;  
 But the latter was prompt in his steps to defeat  
 The designs of his brother, who, failing to meet  
 The grave charge of high treason against him prepared,  
**1549** Was condemned—and the fate of all traitors he shared.

Now the zeal with which Somerset pushed the Reform  
 Both in Cornwall and Devon fomented a storm ;  
 While in Norfolk a petty dispute about *land*  
**1549** Caused the rising of *Ket* and his vagabond band.



HISTORY: But the rebel was forced for his deeds to atone  
 The House With his life—after which the revolt was put down.  
 of Tudor.

- A.D. Then the power of Somerset drew to a close :  
 1549 Many charges against him were laid by his foes—  
 By the Catholics, hating Reform, he was feared ;  
 While the lords at his love for the populace sneered :  
 He was blamed for the death of his brother ; and next  
 At his great ostentation the nation was vex'd.  
 The complaints of the nobles were angry and loud,  
 And he fell 'neath the bane of the envious crowd ;  
 Till Earl *Warwick*, of all his opponents the worst,  
 Took the step by which Somerset's hopes were dispers'd :  
 He was sent to the Tower, of office deprived,  
 And, though pardoned at first, but a short time survived ;  
 For Earl *Warwick* (now *Duke of Northumberland*  
                   made)  
 Of this fallen, unfortunate man was afraid ;  
 And, in case he should popular sympathy woo,  
 He accused him of treason and felony too :  
 He was tried and condemned on the felony bill,  
 1552 And Duke Somerset perished on old Tower Hill.

We must mention that France, an ally of the Scotch,  
 Now attempted a treaty with England to botch,  
 For the sale to the French of the town of *Boulogne* ;  
 Which the English had held for six years as their own.

And we also must note that *Joan Bocher*, of Kent,  
 Was consigned to the flames for presuming to vent  
 (In a manner the Primate considered too warm)  
 Her heretical doctrines against the Reform.

Then the health of King Edward began to decline,  
 And while sick he was tempted his ear to incline

- HISTORY: To Northumberland's counsel, and e'en to obey  
 The House of Tudor. His injunctions to nominate Lady *Jane Grey*  
 A.D. As the heir to the Crown, and, when he should be dead  
 1553 (Quite ignoring his sisters), to reign in his stead.

(Lady Jane was grand-daughter of *Mary*—and she  
 Was the sister of Henry the Eighth : so we see  
 That the lady Northumberland plotted to bring  
 To the throne, was a cousin in fact to the king.  
 She was staunch in her love for the Protestant cause,  
 And her sweetness and grace gained the nation's applause )

- 1553 The design was successful : when Edward had died,  
 Lady Jane was proclaimed the new queen far and wide.  
 But her honours were short, Princess *Mary* uprose  
 With her loyal adherents, the queen to depose.  
 Lady Jane, who the greatest reluctance had shown  
 To be crowned, was o'erwhelmed and surrendered the  
     throne ;  
 And Northumberland, forced to abandon his scheme,  
 Now acknowledged the right of Queen *Mary* supreme.  
 But for pardon his crime was considered too high ;  
 He was promptly arrested and sentenced to die.  
 The unfortunate Jane into prison was thrust  
 Until *Mary* the mode of her fate could adjust.

1553

## MARY.

The new queen was the daughter of Catherine, wife  
 Of King Henry the Eighth, who embittered her life  
 By providing a cure for his pious remorse,  
 And appeasing his mind by a cruel divorce.

HISTORY: Like her mother, the queen was a Catholic born,  
 The House And to Protestants e'er was the enemy sworn ;  
 of Tudor. We must therefore remember, through Mary's short reign,  
 That the Catholic faith was triumphant again.  
 Now the queen being clearly to marriage disposed,  
 With the Spanish prince *Philip* a match was proposed ;  
 But the nation regarded with fear and disdain  
 Such a scheme as an English alliance with Spain.  
 A.D. *Thomas Wyatt* fomented a rising in Kent,  
 1554 When the people's disgust in revolt found a vent ;  
 But at last, having vainly his sovereign defied,  
 He was seized, and the death of a traitor he died :  
 And soon after, her lingering fears to allay,  
 The queen signed the death-warrant of Lady Jane Grey,  
 Who, with *Dudley* her husband, a slender neck bow'd  
 1554 To the axe, in full sight of a pitying crowd !

Now the marriage of Mary and Philip of Spain  
 To the Protestant party brought terror and pain ;  
 1555-58 For a fierce prosecution (the *Marian* named)  
 Was directed against them, by hatred inflamed :  
*Hooper, Latimer, Ridley*, all bishops of note,  
 Suffered death for the doctrines they uttered and wrote ;  
 Even Cranmer, the Primate, still firm and resigned,  
 1556 To the flames as a martyr was basely consigned :  
 Nor did fierce bishops *Bonner* and *Gardiner* shirk  
 From their self-imposed shares in this barbarous work ;  
 And the Protestant party were shunned and despised  
 For maintaining the faith which so dearly they prized ;  
 And 'twas thus, in this cruel and bigoted reign,  
 That the cause of the Catholics flourished again.

A short struggle with France brings this reign to an end,  
 For Prince Philip demanded that Mary should send

- HISTORY: Some assistance, the armies of Spain to enhance,  
 The House of Tudor. In the war which that country was waging with France.
- A.D. To comply with his wishes Queen Mary was fain,  
 1557 And despatched a small army to join the campaign.  
 But the only result of this ill-advised freak
- 1558 Was the losing of *Calais*, besieged for a week ;  
 And although it was deemed of impregnable strength,  
 To the French Duke of *Guise* it surrendered at length.  
 The queen's grief for this loss so affected her mind  
 That she said, " On my heart, when I die, you will find  
 The word *Calais* engraven"—tho' whether 'twas true  
 We are safe in assuming that nobody knew !  
 A low fever, augmented by sorrow and spleen,  
 Was the proximate cause of the death of the queen—  
 When *Elizabeth* (born of Anne Boleyn) was placed  
 On the throne which her bigoted sister disgraced.

1558

## ELIZABETH.

- HER accession with vast satisfaction was hailed  
 By the nation, who long before Mary had quailed ;  
 But the Protestant welcome was specially warm  
 To the queen, who was known as a friend to Reform.  
 The first year of her reign two great statutes were passed  
 Which restored the old faith to its honours at last :  
 One declared that the queen was the Head of the Church,  
 And might into its wrongs and abuses make search :  
 Number two, that the Service by Cranmer arranged  
 Should for no other form of devotion be changed ;  
*Uniformity* strict (it went on to decree)
- 1559 In the manner of worship thenceforth there should be.

Now with Scotland and France there was peace, tho' it  
 ran  
 But a very short time ; for a quarrel began

HISTORY: Between *Mary of Scots* (that unfortunate queen)  
 The House of Tudor. And Elizabeth—why will hereafter be seen.

Princess *Margaret*, aunt to Elizabeth bore  
 To her spouse James the Fourth (who the Scottish crown  
     wore)

A son James, who succeeded his sire on the throne,  
 And whose daughter as *Mary of Scotland* is known.  
 To Elizabeth, therefore, a cousin was she,  
 But much nearer than dear—as we shortly shall see.

Should Elizabeth die, Mary's claim was the best  
 To the Crown which her kinswoman meanwhile possess'd:  
 She had married the Dauphin of France, who was prone  
 To persuade her that England would soon be her own;  
 And addressed her as queen of that country, while he,  
 As her consort, hoped shortly its monarch to be.

Now Elizabeth's wrath, as we well can suppose,  
 At this haughty and impudent conduct arose.  
 As the French (who were Papists) had many a storm  
 With the Scots (who were staunch in the cause of Reform),  
 She assisted the latter with England's strong hand,  
 In expelling the whole of the French from the land.  
 By a treaty, at *Edinburgh* drawn up and signed,  
 All the French further sojourn in Scotland resigned;  
 And Queen Mary agreed to relinquish her claim  
 To Elizabeth's Crown till the proper time came.  
 Then, from France the dear land where so long she had  
     been,

A.D.  
 1560

1561

Hapless Mary came home to the Scotch as their queen.  
 Tho' despised by *John Knox*, the great friend of  
     Reform,  
 The great bulk of the Scotch in their welcome were warm.

HISTORY: (By the Thirty-nine Articles, passed in this reign,  
The House of Tudor. The Reform was triumphant in England again).

- Now Queen Mary of Scots, to her shame be it said,  
A.D. Having married Lord Darnley (the Dauphin was dead),  
1567 Was so base as to compass his violent end,  
In revenge for the murder of *Rizzio*, her friend.  
The design was approved by one *Bothwell*, a lord  
Of much power and wealth, but of morals abhorr'd ;  
And three months had but flown after Darnley was  
slain  
Ere his treacherous helpmate was married again.  
At this match the disgust of the Scotch was aroused,  
For 'twas actually *Bothwell* himself she espoused :  
The Scotch nobles took arms, and at *Carberry Hill*  
They compelled the false queen to submit to their will :  
She was placed in a castle (*Lochleven* its site),  
Whence contriving to fly, under cover of night,  
She assembled her forces, and strove to compete  
1568 With Earl *Murray* at *Langside*—but suffered defeat :  
She escaped into England, expecting to get  
Consolation and aid from Elizabeth : yet  
All her hopes were in vain, for her cousin refused  
To receive one of cowardly murder accused.  
She was tried for the crime, and to prison consign'd,  
Tho' her judges no verdict conclusive could find ;  
But her pardon was offered provided she vowed  
To relinquish her rights as a queen, or allowed  
Her son James (by Lord Darnley) to rule in her stead  
O'er the people whose just indignation she fled.  
But as Mary these galling proposals disdained,  
She was thenceforth a captive in England detained ;  
1569 And although an attempt to restore her again  
To her freedom was afterwards made, 'twas in vain.

HISTORY: As for *Norfolk*, the duke who aspired to wed  
 The House of Tudor. The fair prisoner, he to the scaffold was led—  
 A.D. (Tho' not solely for this ; for 'twas said by his focs,  
 1572 That he secretly plotted the queen to depose).

In this year there occurred, on *Bartholomew's Day*,  
 A great slaughter of *Huguenots*—that is to say  
 Of French Protestants : *Paris*, once smiling and gay,  
 Was the scene of this cruel and bloody affray.  
 Since by Charles, the French monarch's command they  
       were slain,  
 On his name he has fixed an indelible stain ;  
 But he vowed (Queen Elizabeth's wrath to avert)  
 That the victims had secret designs to his hurt ;  
 And so far did his crafty excuses succeed  
 That he never was called to account for the deed.

We must mention that Spain was engaged in a feud  
 With the Dutch, whose dominions they seized and subdued ;  
 But a treaty was made by which England prepared  
 To make war upon Spain, if the Dutch were not spared.  
*Francis Drake*, the bold seaman, at once was despatched  
 To encounter the Spaniards, whose fleet he o'ermatched ;  
 1577-80 And he then did an act with which none could compete,  
 For he sailed round the world in one voyage complete.

The *High Court of Commission* was formed in this reign  
 To repair all abuses the Church might retain ;  
 'Twas a dread inquisition, and probably led  
 To a great deal more evil than good, it is said.

Now Earl *Leicester* the war against Spain carried on ;  
 1586 But at *Zutphen*, the Spaniards a victory won :



**HISTORY:** *Philip Sidney*, a hero of famous renown  
**The House** For his goodness and valour, that day was struck down.  
**of Tudor.**

A.D. Then a plot was discovered the queen to dethrone,  
 1586 Which as *Babington's Plot* is in history known—  
 The conspirators, numbering three at the least,  
 Being, *Babington*, *Savage*, and *Ballard* (a priest).  
 It took rise in the hatred the Catholics bore  
 To the Protestant cause, as we've mentioned before.  
 Queen Elizabeth's murder formed part of their plots,  
 With the rescue and crowning of *Mary of Scots*.  
 Their design was discovered, the traitors were seized,  
 And their lives were not spared ; but the queen was still  
                   teased  
 By the fear that although she'd prevented this crime,  
 Mary's friends might perchance be more lucky next time ;  
 So the ill-fated captive was taken one day  
 And confined in the castle of *Fotheringay* ;  
 She was gravely accused of a share in the plot,  
 And the sentence of death soon determined her lot.  
 On the scaffold some words of true pathos she spoke,  
 1587 And then bowed her fair head to the terrible stroke.  
 Though from tears at this deed the queen could not re-  
                   frain,  
 As a blot on her glory 'twill ever remain.

Now the Spanish campaign was approaching a stage  
 Which for several verses our pen must engage.  
 In revenge for the part the English had played  
 In the war which the Spaniards on Holland had made,  
 The proud monarch of Spain, on reprisals intent,  
 1588 An enormous *Armada* to England now sent.  
 Over thirty-five thousands of soldiers he shipped  
 In one hundred and thirty great vessels, equipped

HISTORY: In a manner that Spain, in her pompous conceit,  
 The House Was so bold as to characterise as *complete*.  
 of Tudor. The "*Invincible Spanish Armada*" then sailed  
 For the shores of our country—but little availed  
 Its unwieldy extent and superfluous bulk,  
 For each ship in the hands of its crew was a *hulk*.  
 In the storm which arose ere they came to a fight,  
 Spanish seamanship showed in the very worst light;  
 A.D. And the ships of "*Old England*," in numbers tho' few,  
 1588 Were sufficient the cowardly foe to subdue.  
 Under *Effingham*, *Frobisher*, *Hawkins*, and *Drake*,  
 Many ships from the Spaniards they managed to take;  
 Till the latter retreated, and much to their shame,  
 Half their fleet easy prizes to England became.

'Twas apparent at once, from this famous defeat,  
 That the Spaniards could ne'er with the English compete;  
 But the feud was kept up, and soon after again  
 1596 A great sea-fight saw *Cadiz* surrendered by Spain  
 To Lord *Effingham*; though there are others who say  
 'Twas the pluck of Earl *Essex* that gained us the day.

1598 'Twas this year that the *Edict of Nantes* was decreed,  
 By which *Henry the Fourth* (the French monarch) agreed  
 That the Protestants all through his land should be saved  
 From the dread persecution which long they had braved.

The great statesman, Lord *Burleigh*, now sickened and  
 died;  
 And to match him the queen unsuccessfully tried.

Then the restless and turbulent Irish rebelled,  
 And 'twas not without blood that the rising was quelled;

[HISTORY:] But Earl Essex, who every favour enjoyed  
 The House At the hands of his sovereign, on being employed  
 of Tudor. As her royal lieutenant to rule in the land,  
 A.D. 1599 Was so base as to league with the mutinous band :  
 He was seized and imprisoned ; but soon was set free,  
 For the queen was too fond to enforce the decree.

1600 (In East India a company, chartered this year,  
 First established our might and prosperity there.)

Now Earl Essex, deprived of his Irish command,  
 And alive to the fact that his fall was at hand,  
 Grew so reckless and bold in his sudden disgrace  
 That he dared to insult the good queen to her face.  
 She was wrathful, but still to the favourite kind—  
 For her love to his faults was persistently blind ;  
 But so rash was this man, and of temper so hot,  
 That he scorned the queen's grace and connived at a plot  
 To dethrone her ; which instantly being perceived,  
 From his well-deserved fate he not long was reprieved :  
 1601 He was led to the scaffold while yet in the prime  
 Of a life of ingratitude, rather than crime.  
 But Elizabeth's sorrow because of the fate  
 Of her insolent favourite ne'er could abate :  
 She but lingered two years, when, from sickness and grief,  
 She discovered in death a most welcome relief.  
 1603 On her death-bed, lest others might rake up their claims,  
 She appointed as heir the young Scottish King *James* :  
 (He was son of Lord Darnley and Mary of Scots,  
 Who by death had atoned for her treacherous plots) :  
 And as soon as his cousin the queen was no more,  
 To assume her dominion King James hurried o'er.

**HISTORY:** *As this king was the first of a line which is new,*  
**The House** *For a page we shall pause—and the Tudors review:—*  
**of Tudor.** *We remember how Henry the Seventh was crown'd,*  
*When the two rival Roses together were bound ;*  
*And how Simnel and Warbeck, that impudent pair,*  
*Tried to make themselves out such as never they were :*  
*And how Henry the Eighth took six wives to his heart,*  
*But with none of them seemed very sorry to part !*  
*We have read of poor Wolsey—his rise and his fall :*  
*Of the growth of Reform throughout England, and all*  
*The religious disturbance it raised in the land ;*  
*And the rupture with Rome that by Henry was plann'd.*  
*We have read of King Edward the Sixth—of whose reign*  
*No particulars here need be mentioned again :*  
*Of Queen Mary: the efforts she made to restore*  
*The old Catholic faith ; and the hatred she bore*  
*To the Protestants—making their lives but a curse,*  
*And their deaths, in some instances, very much worse.*  
*Of the sad execution of Lady Jane Grey*  
*Our rhymes have, moreover, had something to say :*  
*Of the taking of Calais from England by France,*  
*And how Mary lamented that grievous mischance.*  
*We have seen how Elizabeth came to the throne,*  
*And endeavoured for Mary's harsh rule to atone :*  
*How the Protestants loved to acknowledge her sway—*  
*E'en the victims who died on Bartholomew's Day :*  
*We remember the famous exploits of Drake,*  
*And the voyage his daring induced him to make :*  
*We have read of both Norfolk's and Babington's plots ;*  
*And the terrible fate of Queen Mary of Scots :*  
*Of the Spanish Armada, which lumbered the seas—*  
*By the ships of Old England defeated with ease :*  
*While the Edict of Nantes and Earl Essex' disgrace*  
*In our verses have each found a prominent place.*

HISTORY:  
The House  
of Stuart.

## THE HOUSE OF STUART.

JAMES I.

A.D.  
1603

His accession, though welcome to many, gave rise  
To two plots called the "*Main*" and the "*Bye*," or  
" Surprise : "

In the former of these *Walter Raleigh* combined  
The new king to dethrone ; for the traitor opined  
That the cousin of James, *Arabella* by name,  
To be crowned in his stead had a plausible claim.

She was daughter of *Charles*, Duke of *Lenox*—and he  
Was the grandson of *Margaret Douglas*—and she  
Was the daughter of *Henry the Eighth*—so we see,  
Some excuse for the plot there might possibly be.  
But her father was brother to *Darnley*, whose wife  
Was the monarch's own mother : and therefore the strife  
As to whether King James or his cousin should reign  
(Seeing *Darnley* was *older* than *Lenox*)—was vain.  
The fair Stuart (for such was her family name)  
For this plot to enthrone her was scarcely to blame ;  
But it soon was found out : *Walter Raleigh* was tried,  
And in prison for years was compelled to abide.

Plot the second, by *Broke* and two priestly allies,  
Was to seize and imprison the king by *surprise* ;  
But it came to the ears of Lord *Cecil*, 'tis said,  
And Lord *Broke*, with his friends, to the scaffold was led.

A dispute with the Church, which the Puritans waged,  
The attention of James shortly after engaged ;  
And he showed all his powers of logic and wit  
1604 At a council he summoned at *Hampton* to sit :  
But the litigants failed their dispute to decide,  
And the friendly attempts of the monarch defied

**HISTORY:** From the Church few concessions the Puritans won,  
**The House** And the council broke up without aught being done.  
**of Stuart.** But the Catholic party, who found that their claims  
 To complete toleration were slighted by James,  
 Formed a plot, in its nature enough to appal  
 The most traitorous heart. 'Tis familiar to all :  
 The whole object and scope of their wicked design  
 Was to blow up the Parliament House, by a mine  
 Formed of barrels of gunpowder, meant to ignite  
 When the Parliament met on the opening night.  
 But a hint of the plot was by letter convey'd  
 To a lord called *Monteagle*—who, being afraid  
 Lest his silence some dreadful disaster might bring,  
 Lost no time in submitting the news to the king.  
 The wise monarch no sooner the letter had seen,  
 Than he felt what its ill-defined warning might mean :  
 He commanded a diligent search to be made,  
 And discovered the place where the powder was laid :  
 Near the barrels stood *Guy Fawkes*, with lantern in  
 hand—  
 The unfortunate tool of the traitorous band :  
 He was promptly arrested, and though he concealed  
 All the names of his friends, the whole plot stood  
 revealed ;  
 The conspirators *Catesby* and *Percy* were slain,  
 And the rest of the gang found resistance was vain ;  
 They were taken and hanged, 'midst the nation's applause,  
 1605 Worthy victims of such an iniquitous cause.

In this reign many Englishmen, loving to roam,  
 In the north of America took up their home :  
 1611 The wild province of Ulster was colonised, too,  
 And a peaceful and civilised county it grew.

[HISTORY:] An authentic translation (still used in the land)  
 The House Was now made of the Bible by James's command.  
 of Stuart.

A most barbarous murder was planned in this reign  
 By the Countess of *Somerset*, jealous and vain :  
*Robert Carr*, a young man whose good breeding and  
 birth

Gave the king an exalted idea of his worth,  
 Fell in love with the wife of Earl *Essex*, and tried  
 To procure her divorce, and then make her his bride.  
 He was aided by James in his shameful attempt,  
 For they both were from decorous scruples exempt ;  
 But the tutor of Carr, a good virtuous man,  
 Used his strongest endeavours to frustrate their plan :  
 He implored his young pupil the scheme to abjure,  
 And to shun all ideas that were base and impure :  
 But the good *Thomas Overbury* preached in vain,  
 For the youth was determined his wish to obtain ;  
 And at length, with no feeling of shame or remorse,  
 He succeeded in gaining the lady's divorce ;  
 When the king, lest the marriage her rank should degrade,  
 Him the Earl, her the Countess of *Somerset* made.  
 They were married at once—but unsatisfied still,  
 They resolved, in revenge, the poor tutor to kill :  
 He was poisoned by inches—so skilfully too,  
 That the verdict was *poisoned*—by no one knows who !  
 But suspicions arose which were not to be hushed,  
 And a vigorous search for the culprit was pushed :  
 The vile plot was disclosed, their accomplices fell  
 'Neath the sentence of death ; but it grieves us to tell  
 That the Earl and his Countess far diff'rently fared,  
 For their lives with unmerited kindness were spared :  
 Their free pardon was granted ; but could not assuage  
 The remorse that pursued them through bitter old age ;

A.D.

1613

1616



HISTORY: And in quarrels and bickerings, hatred and strife,  
 The House The contemptible pair spent the rest of their life.  
 of Stuart.

In this year Walter Raleigh, a prisoner still,  
 Made a promise, which haply he thought to fulfil:  
 'Twas to find out a gold-mine of lucrative store  
 In *Guiana* (discovered a few years before).

A. D.

1617

He was furnished with ships to pursue his device  
 And *success* of his freedom was named as the price;  
 But the venture was fatal—he dared to attack  
 Certain obstinate Spaniards who threatened him back;  
 And as this had been strictly forbidden by James,  
 To his pardon he found he no longer had claims:

1618

He was forthwith beheaded—for once on a time  
 Such a wilful mistake was accounted a crime.

Shortly after the downfall of Raleigh took place  
 Yet another great statesman was brought to disgrace:  
*Francis Bacon*, Lord Chancellor, greedy of gain,  
 Against oft-proffered bribes had long struggled in vain;  
 He accepted from litigants many a gift  
 Of which none were so blind in perceiving the drift.  
 Being called to account, he was forced to confess,  
 1621 And was fined and imprisoned; but, nevertheless,  
 From regard to his talents and general worth,  
 He was soon from the Tower allowed to come forth:  
 All his fines were remitted, and lest he should want,  
 The kind monarch allowed him a small yearly grant.

In this year the king's power was sought to be  
 curbed

By the Commons, who vowed they would not be disturbed  
 In their own jurisdiction o'er matters of State,  
 Or their coveted freedom of speech in debate:

HISTORY: 'Tis important to notice, since to it they owed  
 The House The complete independence they afterwards showed;  
 of Stuart. And although the king vented his spleen on a few,  
 A.D. 1621 Their authority yearly more powerful grew:

But the monarch unwisely ignoring this fact,  
 And displaying remarkable absence of tact,  
 Used unlawful devices his ends to attain,  
 And regarded their solemn rebukes with disdain.  
 Enforced loans, bartered honours, extortionate fines,  
 Of his royal contempt were the ominous signs;  
 And 'tis certain their anger had openly burst,  
 Had not *death* of his enemies turned out the worst:  
 1625 By his timely decease all their troubles were solved,  
 And the Crown on his son Charles the First then devolved.

1625

## CHARLES I.

By King Charles's accession the slumbering feud  
 Between Commons and King was by no means subdued;  
 He discovered this fact the first year of his reign,  
 While engaged in a harassing war against Spain—  
 The result of his breaking a promise to wed  
 The *Infanta* of Spain, and espousing instead  
 (Through forgetfulness, wilfulness, love, or mere chance)  
*Henrietta*, the daughter of Henry of France.  
 He required supplies, which the Commons refused,  
 As the right to demand them had long been abused:  
 They declined wasteful acts of the Crown to condone,  
 So the monarch, in wrath, raised the money by *loan*.  
 He dissolved this first Parliament, sorely perplex'd  
 By their obdurate conduct—and summoned the next;  
 1626 Whose impeachment of *Buckingham* led to their fall,  
 Since the monarch, to save him, decided to call

HISTORY: A new Parliament (being the third of his reign),  
 The House And from them the required supplies to obtain.  
 of Stuart.

A.D.  
 1628

But he reckoned in vain, as will shortly be seen :  
 They were fully as firm as the others had been,  
 And declared that no money the monarch should have  
 Till his solemn assent to their wishes he gave ;  
 So, despairing at last, or in spirit contrite,  
 He consented to grant the *Petition of Right*.  
 Being framed all the fears of his subjects to ease,  
 The chief terms of this notable statute were these :—  
*That no loan should be levied without the consent*  
*Of the Parliament ; none should to prison be sent*  
*For refusing unauthorised loans to provide*  
 (A persuasion the king very frequently tried):  
*That no soldier or sailor should thenceforth intrude*  
*On the king's private subjects for lodgings or food*  
 (For the *billeting* laws were enough to appal  
 The most generous host—if his income were small) ;  
 And, in fine, *that the law of the land should alone*  
*Be employed to make all for their actions atone*  
 (Since the martial-law, oft by Commissions dispensed,  
 By its frequent injustice the people incensed).  
 After passing the Act of which this is the gist,  
 The victorious Commons by Charles were dismiss'd  
 Ere they well could their newly-born power assume,  
 Or the censure of Buckingham's conduct resume.

But the Duke was reserved for a deadlier fate  
 Than a solemn reproval, perhaps, in debate ;  
 For this noble, so arrogant, haughty, and vain,  
 By the hand of a common assassin was slain.  
 A lieutenant, *John Felton*, for vengeance athirst  
 (Being balked of promotion), resolved on the worst :

HISTORY: He considered severe retribution was meet—  
 The House of Stuart. So he stabbed his commander (the duke) in the street.

Now the rule of the king was each day growing worse,  
 Though it chiefly affected his subjects in *purse*;  
 He raised money by loans, without Parliament's aid,  
 And, in terror of punishment, thousands were paid.  
 A D. But a new tax called "Ship-money" being imposed,  
 1637 By the famous *John Hampden* 'twas firmly opposed;  
 And, refusing to meet so unjust a demand,  
 He resolved to abide by the law of the land.  
 Though the judges were puzzled and could not agree,  
 On the whole they decided to make a decree:—  
 That the tax known as "Ship-money" clearly was just,  
 And so pay it the people were bound to—and must.  
 But the zeal patriotic that Hampden displayed  
 In opposing the powers against him arrayed  
 (Notwithstanding he failed in attaining his end)  
 Made his memory famous as Liberty's friend.

An attempt by the king at religious reform  
 In the land of the Scots, raised a regular storm:  
 They united their forces the scheme to resist,  
 1638 And a COVENANT signed—of which this was the gist  
*That the Pope they'd renounce, and for ever oppose*  
*All religious reforms which the king might propose.*  
 So he summoned an army his will to enforce,  
 And convince the bold Scotsmen how vain was their  
     course;  
 But perceiving that grave disaffection was rife  
 In the ranks of his men, he avoided the strife,  
 1639 And agreed to make peace—which at *Berwick* was signed,  
 And the Scots for a time further contest resigned.

HISTORY: The fourth Parliament summoned was shortly dis-  
 The House solved;  
 of Stuart.

A.D. And the king in new strife with the Scots was involved :  
 1640 They defeated his army at *Newburn*—which led  
 To the Treaty of *Ripon* ; by which the king said  
 That a weekly allowance to Scotland he'd pay,  
 For so long as they kept from revolt or affray.

Then the famous *fifth* Parliament, known as the  
 "LONG,"

With its four predecessors was equally strong :  
 They impeached the Lord *Strafford*, chief Minister then,  
 Whose position enraged these impetuous men.  
 Being charged with high treason in solemn debate  
 They condemned him to suffer the usual fate.  
 1641 They abolished the terrible "Star Chamber" next,  
 And all courts whose existence the nation had vex'd ;  
 And 'twas now that their might had so vastly increas'd  
 That they cared not for Charles's commands in the least.  
 They determined to limit the number of men  
 In the king's standing army of Ireland—but then  
 There arose a revolt in that country, which led  
 To disastrous results, and much good blood was shed.  
*Roger More*, a bold Irishman, thought 'twould be well  
 If the whole of the English he thence could expel ;  
 And in pushing his scheme such a tumult ensued  
 As could only by resolute steps be subdued.  
 But the Commons considered this danger the less  
 Because England's affairs were in far graver stress ;  
 And, in fact, they devoted the whole of their zeal  
 To a *Solemn Remonstrance*, or urgent appeal,  
 Which was made to the people no less than the king,  
 A true sense of their wrongs into notice to bring.

HISTORY:       The whole nation uprose: some, whose pride could  
The House       not brook  
of Stuart.

*Democratic* alliance, King Charles's side took,  
And were called *Cavaliers*, in distinction to those  
Whom they branded as *Roundheads*—their monarch's  
dread foes.

A.D.       Now the king, in the heat of his wrath, did an act  
1642       That displayed very little of prudence or tact;  
He accused of high treason five members, well known  
For their zeal democratic and scorn for the throne;  
And, in order his power remaining to test,  
He repaired to the House to demand their arrest—  
But to Charles's surprise, these *five members* renowned  
Had discreetly withdrawn, and were not to be found;  
While the Speaker, it seems, little eagerness show'd  
To find *Hazlerig, Hollis, Pym, Hampden, and Strode!*

Thus, the only result of this rash escapade  
Was to strengthen the faction against him arrayed;  
And it soon became clear that the day was not far  
When the slumbering flame would break out into war.  
An attempt to evade, or refuse his assent  
To a Bill which the Commons on passing were bent,  
Gave the crisis impending a finishing stroke,  
And a fierce civil war over England now broke.  
(And yet, how could the Commons have hoped that a Bill  
Which subjected the army itself to their will,  
And allowed them to place all their friends in its ranks,  
Would have met with the monarch's acceptance and  
thanks?)

1642       First, at *Nottingham* Charles made a resolute stand,  
And, collecting around him his Cavalier band,

**HISTORY:** Raised his Standard—in open defiance of those  
**The House** Who had ventured so firmly his will to oppose.  
**of Stuart.**

*We may sum up the causes that led to the strife  
 In the following words: the disgust which was rife  
 Against Popery (favoured by Charles and his queen,  
 Who endeavoured the Papists from insult to screen):  
 A conspiracy formed by the friends of the king  
 Up to London his loyal adherents to bring  
 With the object of keeping the Commons at bay  
 And compelling the traitors to bow to his sway;  
 And, in fine, the king's error in trying to seize  
 On the famous Five Members, his wrath to appease.*

Thus the struggle began—on the one side the King,  
 On the other the Parliament, eager to wring  
 From the monarch, whom folly had brought to this stress  
 Any traces of power he still might possess.

A.D. 1642 The first open encounter at *Edgehill* took place,  
 But resulted in neither opponent's disgrace:  
 It was quite indecisive—to nothing it led,  
 Although more than twelve hundred were killed, it is  
       said,  
 And Prince *Rupert* (whose name is familiar, of course)  
 On the side of King Charles took command of the horse.  
 Shortly after the armies encountered again:

1643 *Chalgrove Field* was the scene—and here Hampden was  
       slain;  
 But 'twas only a skirmish, and, save for his death,  
 It would scarce have been honoured by history's breath.  
 Then at *Atherton Moor*, and at *Roundaway Down*,  
 And at *Bristol*, the victories lay with the Crown;  
 But from *Gloucester* the king was obliged to retreat,  
 And at *Newbury* also sustained a defeat:



HISTORY: Then the winter approached—from which natural cause  
 The House of Stuart. The opponents were fain in their struggles to pause.

But the monarch, at *Oxford*, to further his ends,  
 A.D. A new Parliament summoned, composed of his friends :  
 1644 When the Scots entered England in aid of his foes,  
 And obliged him their forces combined to oppose.  
 He applied to the Irish for help in this strait,  
 And the army they sent him in numbers was great ;  
 But at *Nantwich* the Parliament, nevertheless,  
 By the valour of *Fairfax*, obtained a success—  
 Followed up shortly after by such a defeat  
 Of the King as he ne'er had expected to meet :—  
 Under Rupert and *Newcastle*, Cavaliers all  
 Having bravely responded to loyalty's call  
 1644 Met the foe before York—*Marston Moor* was the spot,  
 And the struggle on both sides was terribly hot ;  
 But the genius of *Cromwell* (of whom more anon)  
 A triumphant success for the Parliament won.

This defeat to the King was a serious blow,  
 And it threatened for ever his hopes to o'erthrow.  
 Though the trusty adherents whom still he retained  
 Some advantage at *Cropredy Bridge* had obtained,  
 Still the balance, soon after, at *Newbury* turned,  
 Where a petty success by the Roundheads was earned.  
 But of all the encounters that mark the fierce war  
 1645 We must call that at *Naseby* the gravest by far ;  
 For 'twas here the king suffered such utter defeat  
 That no longer he cared with his foes to compete.  
 He surrendered himself to the Scots, who in force  
 1646 Had assembled at *Newark*—believing this course  
 Would ensure him protection, at least till his foes  
 Had considered the terms which they meant to impose :

HISTORY: But the treacherous Scots, who were greedy for gold,  
 The House of Stuart. The poor monarch at once to his enemies sold—  
 A.D. He was seized by the army (whose power we find  
 1647 Was supreme at this time), and to prison consign'd :  
 In the castle of *Carisbrooke*, tortured by fear  
 For his Crown and his life—he remained for a year.

But meanwhile many changes had come o'er the scene ;  
 And the Commons, who once had all-powerful been,  
 Found their might by the *Army* so thoroughly curbed  
 That, in spite of their boasts, they were gravely perturbed.  
 Crafty Oliver Cromwell assumed the command  
 Of the whole of the forces, and carefully plann'd  
 To usurp for himself all the rights of a king,  
 And the Parliament under subjection to bring.  
 Opposition was vain to his vigorous will,  
 As he firmly resolved all his hopes to fulfil :  
 1648 Colonel *Pride* "purged" the House by excluding all those  
 Who seem'd likely his truculent chief to oppose ;  
 And the rest (the *Rump* Parliament), thoroughly cowed,  
 Before Cromwell's authority silently bowed.

They declared 'twas a crime of a nature most grave  
 To make war on the Parliament—therefore they gave  
 The command for a High Court of Justice to sit  
 And determine what fate for the king might be fit.  
 Then to Wesminster Hall the poor monarch was brought  
 And for mercy in vain from his judges he sought :  
 He was tried and condemned, and three days had but sped  
 1649 Ere he lost on the scaffold his Crown and his head.

16 9-60

## THE COMMONWEALTH.

CHARLES THE SECOND, his son, was at once proclaimed king,  
 But the Commons declared they would have no such thing :

HISTORY : They required no king (so enlightened their state),  
 The House And abolished the office in solemn debate.  
 of Stuart. After which, being *equal*, and needing no *head*,  
 They appointed a council to govern instead.

Now the Irish, it seems, for King Charles had declared,  
 And to check such presumption the Commons prepared ;  
 A.D. Cromwell, *Ireton*, and *Jones* to the scene were despatched,  
 1649 And the Irish in fight after fight overmatched.

Then the Scotch, who endeavoured the king to assist,  
 Were compelled from their loyal attempts to desist ;  
 For the valorous Cromwell, all eager for war,  
 1650 Put the whole of their armies to flight at *Dunbar*.  
 But as Charles was determined to come to the throne,  
 He was formally crowned as a monarch at *Scone* ;  
 And, proceeding to England, on conquest resolved,  
 Was at once in a tussle with Cromwell involved.  
 1651 But at *Worcester* he got far the worst o' the fight,  
 And, despairing, thought best to take refuge in flight :  
 He escaped into France—and for many a year  
 Nothing more of the hapless young monarch we hear.

Now the Commons, who sought to intrigue with the  
*Dutch*,  
 Having failed, passed an Act whose provisions were such  
 As to gravely affect the Dutch merchants—who lived  
 On the gains which from *carrying goods* they derived.  
 It precluded all nations from sending their wares  
 To the markets of England, in vessels *not theirs* ;  
 The effect of which sudden enactment the Dutch  
 (Being *general carriers*) felt very much ;  
 And believing that England had trespassed too far  
 1652 On their powers of patience—they boldly made war.

HISTORY: So the peace then existing they managed to break  
 The House of Stuart. When the Dutchman *Van Tromp* met the Englishman

A.D. *Blake.*

- 1652 (On the side of the Dutch, no details to omit,  
 Were *Van Tromp*, and *De Ruyter*—and, lastly, *De Witt*.)  
 But a sea-fight off *Dover* resulted at length  
 In establishing England's superior strength—  
 While a battle off *Plymouth*, soon afterwards fought,  
 With but little advantage to either was fraught.  
 After sundry successes by each of them gained,  
 1653 A great triumph off *Portland* the English obtained;  
 And defeated the Dutch off the *Foreland* again,  
 And off *Texel*—where *Tromp*, the brave Dutchman, was  
 slain;  
 But the valour he showed, though exerted in vain,  
 In the annals of history e'er will remain.

Now the Commons grew jealous of Cromwell's  
 prestige,

And impatient of bowing to *him* as their liege;  
 So, perceiving the danger that threatened his sway,  
 He resolved to *compel* them his will to obey.

- 1653 He dissolved the "Rump" Parliament—calling the aid  
 Of his soldiers (of whom they were justly afraid);  
 Then he summoned another, which sometimes is known  
 As the "Little," and sometimes the "*Praise-God-Bare-*  
*bone!*"

He dissolved them soon after, from anger or whim,  
 When *they yielded the whole of their power to him*—  
 And declared him PROTECTOR of England—a name  
 Which he once had considered the summit of fame.

But a subsequent Parliament gave him some hope  
 That his ardent ambition might widen its scope:

HISTORY: Having managed his friends into office to bring,  
The House He was solemnly offered the title of *King*.  
of Stuart.

A.D. But the army (in which all his safety reposed)  
1657 This astonishing measure with vigour opposed ;  
And, well-knowing their courage and resolute mind,  
The too-tempting proposal was firmly declin'd :  
He was suffered to name a successor, and call  
What, in fact, was a new House of Peers—that was all.

(Under Cromwell, whose vigilance never had ceased,  
England's maritime greatness had vastly increased :  
1655 } From the Spaniards *Jamaica* and *Dunkirk* we gained,  
and }  
1658 } And supreme on the ocean the English flag reigned.)

But the end of his life was embittered by fear,  
And distressing suspicions of all who drew near :  
Disaffection prevailed in his army, and led  
To a number of plots to destroy him, 'tis said :  
He wore armour concealed, and was e'er on the watch  
For the schemes which some traitor against him might  
hatch ;  
And, at length, in the height of his glory and pride,  
1658 The Protector fell ill of a fever—and died.

His son, *Richard*, succeeded him : on'y to find  
That events had much altered the national mind :  
The cabals in the army (whose powerful sway  
Under *Fleetwood* and *Lambert* grew stronger each day)  
1659 Soon obliged *Richard Cromwell* his post to resign  
And in hopeless obscurity thenceforth to pine.

The whole power now lay with a Council composed  
Of the chiefs of the army, who firmly opposed  
All the acts of the Parliament—hoping, no doubt,  
That the latter would soon be compelled to “ go out ! ”

HISTORY: And, in fact, when the Parliament dared to protest  
 The House Against *general officers* (then their great pest),  
 of Stuart. The whole House was expelled by the army, we read,  
 A.D. 1659 And a *Council of Safety* appointed instead.

Open war, as it might be expected, ensued  
 Between Army and Parliament : fierce was the feud,  
 Until General *Monk* for the latter declared,  
 And to humble the army with vigour prepared.  
 By his efforts the whole of the members expelled  
 Were restored to their places—the army was quelled,  
 And then Monk, who concealed his intentions before,  
 1660 Clearly showed 'twas his mission King Charles to restore.  
 He sent over to Charles (who at *Breda* sojourned  
 And in silence his bitter adversity mourned)  
 A strong hint that the nation would welcome him home  
 If he could but his feelings revengeful o'ercome :  
 He enjoined him to frame a political note  
 (Which the king in his gratitude instantly wrote),  
 And to offer a general pardon to those  
 Who had formerly ventured his will to oppose ;  
 And to promise to pay the enormous arrears  
 Which were due to the army—(the king, in his fears,  
 Being only too happy to promise *galore*—  
 Since his subjects appeared to expect nothing more).

That the Parliament (called the “ Convention ”) received  
 This epistle with pleasure, can well be believed :  
 The sad state in which England had been for years past  
 Made them eager to welcome their monarch at last.  
 1660 So the king was recalled : when to London he came  
 He found all were prepared his true rank to proclaim ;  
 And, in fine, having long been deprived of his own,  
 Charles the Second was crowned, and ascended the throne.

## HISTORY:

## CHARLES II.

The House  
of Stuart.

A.D.

1660

WITH the nation's consent he condemned, ere too late,  
 Ten of those who had plotted his father's sad fate  
 (For his own "Declaration from Breda" absolved  
 All besides); and he then the "Convention" dissolved.  
 The new Parliament (nicknamed "the Pension") decreed  
 Many things of importance; but scarcely we need  
 Recapitulate all their enactments—indeed  
 If we were to, our space we should vastly exceed.  
 But perhaps 'twould be well, in their order, to name  
 Just the chief of them—rather than forfeit our claim  
 To completeness of detail, which (not to be vain)  
 We have hitherto carefully tried to maintain:—

1661

First, the great *Corporation* Act, passed with the view  
 Of compelling all corporate officers true  
 To renounce the old "Covenant"—*Sacrament* take,  
 And to swear "*No Resistance*" to Charles they would  
 make:—

1662

The next Act (*Uniformity* being its name),  
 Tho' applied to the *clergy*, in terms was the same:  
 These additional clauses, however, remained—  
 That the clergy thenceforth should be duly *ordained*;  
 That the old *Common Prayer-Book* alone should be used  
 By the clergy—and none of its doctrines refused:—

1664

The third Act we shall mention (*Conventicle* called)  
 By its harshness all prayer-loving subjects appalled:  
 It decreed that whenever *five* persons or more  
 (Above those of the household) should meet to adore,  
 Or engage in devotion and worship divine,  
 They should all be imprisoned or suffer a fine!

Now the Dutch were our rivals in commerce and trade  
 And to *out-do* them every effort was made:



HISTORY: Till, at length, frequent quarrels and envy unwise  
 The House To full many an obstinate battle gave rise.  
 of Stuart.  
 A.D. A great sea-fight off *Lowestoft* was lost by the Dutch—  
 1665 So in braving the English they gained nothing much ;  
 But before we relate the events of this war  
 We must notice the *Plague*, which now raged wide and far  
 O'er the City of London, and swiftly destroyed  
 Countless victims who erewhile good health had enjoyed ;  
 For, so prompt was the stroke, and the issue so dread,  
 That, before one could utter a cry—he was dead.

To the Acts above cited another is owed  
 To complete what is known as the “ Clarendon Code ;”  
 1665 'Twas the famous *Five Mile Act*—and had for its aim  
 The preventing of those who rejoiced in the name  
 Of *Dissenters* from even approaching the place  
 Where they ever had preached ; and *five miles* was the space  
 Within which they were never to come in such case,  
 Under penalties leading to certain disgrace :  
 Normight such become schoolmasters (this they could bear!)  
 If they did, they were fined, or *con-fined* half a year.

Now the war with the Dutch was proceeding apace,  
 When the English unluckily met the disgrace  
 1666 Of a signal defeat off the *Foreland*—a blot  
 On their glory which soon (on the very same spot)  
 They prepared to remove—and succeeded in fact,  
 Tho' the Dutch neither prudence nor bravery lack'd  
 (We must note that the French had declared on the side  
 Of the Dutch—and *two fleets* were against us allied).

1666 The great Fire of London occurred at this date,  
 And the ruin it caused through the City was great :

HISTORY: Many streets were burnt down, and much money was lost,  
 The House But the good it effected was well worth the cost.  
 of Stuart. Tho' ascribed to the Papists, no proofs could be got  
 That they plann'd it: ourselves, we believe they did *not*.

A.D. Now the Dutch, having ventured to penetrate far  
 1667 Up the *Medway*, destroyed many vessels of war;  
 And insulted our coasts without being repulsed,  
 So completely the English by fear were convulsed.  
 If King Louis of France had not far deeper schemes,  
 With his aid the Dutch fleet might have gone to ex-  
 tremes  
 And invaded the country with fatal effect—  
 Which the English, in fact, fully seemed to expect:  
 He desired, however, that neither the Dutch  
 Nor the English should strengthen their power too much;  
 And, proposing this year that the struggle should cease,  
 1667 All the parties at *Breda* concluded a peace.

But the English were not to be pacified so;  
 And they called on the Government promptly to show  
 Why the war was begun—why conducted so ill—  
 Why the fleet had thus failed England's hopes to fulfil.  
 The Prime Minister, *Clarendon*, tried to explain  
 And defend his own conduct—but all was in vain:—  
 The bad payment of seamen, the *Medway* affair,  
 The disgraceful conclusion—all fell to his share;  
 While they raked up old grievances: asking him why  
 [1662] He had suffered the French, as in market, to buy  
 [1658] The old town of *Dunkirk*, which the English had won  
 From the Spaniards—a thing he should never have done.  
 The poor scapegoat, upbraided on every side,  
 To account for his deeds unsuccessfully tried:

HISTORY: His high office was cancelled, his fall was at hand,  
 The House And, on being impeached, he was sent from the land.  
 of Stuart.

A.D.

1667

Now the Ministry formed after Clarendon's fall,  
 From the names of its members, was called the *Cabal* :  
 Firstly, *C-lifford* ; then *A-rlington* ; *B-uckingham* third,  
 Who, with *A-shley* and *L-auderdale*, made up the word.

They acquired a somewhat notorious fame,  
 For their actions were clearly deserving of blame ;  
 But of this more anon—we must keep to our dates  
 Or confusion will follow : avoid it, ye Fates !

Then King Louis of France, who was subtle of heart,  
 Showed his reasons for taking so gentle a part  
 In the recent campaign with the Dutch (as we know  
 He persuaded the latter no further to go,  
 But at Breda agree to a peace) : for this year  
 His designs for so acting were only too clear.  
 He invaded the *Netherlands*, hoping to gain  
 That important and flourishing country from Spain ;  
 And no doubt this long-standing design was the cause  
 Of his asking the Dutch in their triumph to pause :  
 Had they pushed their advantage o'er England too far,  
 Their success might have helped them his wishes to mar :  
 As it was they beheld his intentions with fear,  
 And decided 'twas best *not to have him so near* —  
 If he conquered the *Netherlands*, what could prevent  
 His ambition from rising to any extent ?  
 Their own country, perchance, he might wish to have  
 next

(And the Dutch at this thought were severely perplex'd) :  
 So they broached the idea that the English and they  
 Should conclude an alliance, and keep him at bay.

HISTORY: They were joined by the monarch of *Sweden*, and hence  
 The House Formed the *Triple Alliance*, at Louis' expense ;  
 of Stuart.  
 A.D. And, perceiving their spirit, he thought 'twould be well  
 1668 To agree to the treaty of *Aix-la-Chappelle*,  
 By which France was to keep all her conquests in peace,  
 On the terms that his schemes against Flanders should  
 cease.

Now King Charles thought the *Triple Alliance* was wrong ;  
 And, aware that his royal prestige was not strong,  
 He conceived that his power he well might enhance  
 By a secret intrigue with the monarch of France.  
 As the latter was willing, at *Dover* was sign'd  
 1670 An agreement by Charles, of the following kind :—  
 His whole heart to the Catholic cause to devote,  
 And to aid the French monarch his schemes to promote :  
 While the latter contracted to pension his friend,  
 And assist him his person and rights to defend.

The result of this treaty was war with the Dutch,  
 For whom Louis and Charles were together too much :  
 1672 *Southwold Bay* was the scene of an obstinate fight,  
 When the Dutch, overpowered, were forced to take flight ;  
 And, the English at sea, with the French on the land,  
 Pushed their triumphs so far that the Dutch were un-  
 mann'd.

The renowned *Prince of Orange* (who afterwards wore  
 James the Second's lost crown) bravely strove to restore  
 The prestige of his country ; but signally failed—  
 Nought but fear and confusion through Holland prevailed.  
 The Dutch prayed the allies their revenge to forego  
 And some traces of generous pity to show ;  
 But the terms of the victors were all too severe  
 For the Dutch to accept, notwithstanding their fear :

HISTORY: So, despairing, a fatal expedient was tried—  
 The House They threw open their flood-gates that kept back the tide,  
 of Stuart. In the hope that the waters might check the advance  
 Of their obstinate enemy, Louis of France.  
 The experiment certainly proved of some use,  
 For the monarch decided to grant them a truce :  
 He retired to France—where we'll let him remain  
 While we turn for a moment to England again.

There, the Parliament, highly indignant to find  
 Too much love for the Catholics filled the king's mind,  
 Passed a statute intended to act as a test  
 Of the faith which each *public official* possess'd :  
 A.D. By the *Test Act* such persons were ordered to swear  
 1673 Certain oaths, which need scarcely be dwelt upon here :  
 Its effect was to suddenly leave in the lurch  
 All officials who did not belong to the *Church*.  
 (The king's brother, a Catholic, even thought meet  
 To resign his position as head of the fleet.)  
 Then the Parliament tried to persuade the rash king  
 To a climax the war against Holland to bring ;  
 And refused him supplies till the struggle should cease  
 (Unless Holland, indeed, should refuse to make peace).  
 Their dismissal soon followed, and led to the fall  
 1673 Of the Ministry mentioned above—the “ Cabal,”  
 Whose pernicious advice had so warped the king's mind  
 As to make him to England's true interests blind :  
 They no doubt had a share in the underhand course  
 Which the monarch pursued with King Louis—a source  
 Of regret and disgust to the nation at large,  
 Tho' by no means the sole offence laid to their charge.

The new Parliament none the less warmly proposed  
 That the struggle with Holland at once should be closed ;

HISTORY: Until Charles was compelled their demands to obey,  
 The House And concluded a truce without further delay.  
 of Stuart.

The next stirring event was a shameful attempt  
 (Which should only have met with indignant contempt)  
 To convict all the Papists of plotting the fall  
 Of King Charles—with the view of extending the thrall  
 Of the Pope throughout England: a scheme so absurd  
 That, to fitly describe it, we pause for a word!

A.D.  
 1678 *Titus Oates* was the villain who spread the report,  
 Till the mind of the people with fear was distraught:  
 They had hated the Jesuits ever—but now  
 This was more than their patience could justly allow.  
 The whole thing was a fraud, a most cowardly scheme,  
 But for years it continued the popular theme;  
 And the Catholics, feared and suspected by all,  
 Led a life which indeed was as bitter as gall.

1679 The third Parliament passed a great statute, designed  
 To enable all prisoners wrongly confined  
 To be brought into court and make public complaint  
 Of thus being unlawfully kept in restraint.  
 Lest the gaoler, however, this freedom should grudge,  
 'Twas secured by a *writ*, issued out by a judge,  
 And commanding the former to promptly escort  
 E'en the *body itself* of the captive to court:  
 Which advantage to prisoners wrongly accused  
 (Save to traitors or felons) *must ne'er be refused*:  
*Even these, 'twas decreed, must be tried without fail*  
*At the very next court—or admitted to bail*;  
 And that, *none who had once made a valid defence*  
*Should again be confined for the self-same offence*:  
*Nor should any be sent beyond seas for their crimes*  
 (Which was often the case in those dangerous times):

HISTORY: Heavy penalties (which you need scarce recollect)  
 The House Were imposed on all those who the Act should neglect ;  
 of Stuart. 'Twas the *Habeas Corpus* Act, justly renown'd,  
 And by some of its terms to this day we are bound.

A.D.

1679 Now the Parliament sought to exclude from the throne  
 The king's brother, whose Catholic faith was well known ;  
 And 'tis clear that their prompt dissolution alone  
 Was the reason that led them this step to postpone.

1679 A religious revolt then in Scotland arose,  
 Which young *Monmouth* was sent by the king to oppose :  
*Bothwell Bridge* was the scene where his laurels were earned  
 And in triumph the duke into England returned.

1679 Then one *Dangerfield* swore that the Papists again  
 Were intriguing their evil designs to attain ;  
 And as some of the papers detailing the plot  
 In a *tub* were discovered, the name it thence got  
 Of the *Meal-tub* plot : little of truth could be found  
 In the story—which therefore soon fell to the ground.

1680-81 The two subsequent Parliaments vainly renewed  
 Their endeavours the brother of Charles to exclude  
 From the throne : for the king was as firmly resolved  
 To defeat them—and twice they were promptly dissolved.

But the country was now in a terrible state,  
 Which the conduct of Charles did not tend to abate :  
 So despotic his government lately had grown  
 As to gravely endanger his life and his throne.  
 Two great parties or factions for victory fought—  
 One the Papists (whose cause was upheld by the Court),  
 And the other their enemies, cruel and strong,  
 Who took care that the feud should prove bitter and long.



HISTORY:      Certain traitors conspired the king to waylay  
 The House      As he passed by a farm called the *Rye House*, one day,  
 of Stuart.      And to ruthlessly kill him—it being their aim  
 A.D.      That the nation a new Constitution should frame.  
 1683      Of the principal traitors he suffered but one  
                 To escape—'twas Duke Monmouth, his natural son ;  
                 But Lord *Russell* and *Algernon Sidney* were tried,  
                 And, convicted of treason, as traitors they died.

                But two years after this Charles was seized with a fit,  
                 Which compelled him the scene of his troubles to quit:  
                 As if mocking the schemes of his cowardly foes,  
 1685      Sudden death brought his notable reign to a close ;  
                 When his brother, of York, though a Papist avowed,  
                 To succeed, as the Second King James, was allowed.

1685

## JAMES II.

THE new monarch, however, found little of peace  
 On the throne which he won by his brother's decease :  
 His whole reign was a struggle, a long list of woes,  
 From the day he was crowned till he fled from his foes.

1685

                The first year of his reign he was forced to oppose  
 The great Earl of *Argyle*, who in Scotland uprose :—  
 When success against *him* had attended his arms  
 The rebellion of Monmouth (who valued the charms  
 Of the regal position far dearer than life)  
 Plunged the monarch again into serious strife.

1685

For the duke, having ventured an army to bring  
 Into England, at *Taunton* proclaimed himself king :  
 And advanced towards *Sedgemoor*—but there he was  
                 check'd  
 By the forces of James, who could not but object

HISTORY: To such haughty and traitorous conduct of one  
 The House Who was nought but a king's illegitimate son.  
 of Stuart. The duke's army was routed in terrible plight,  
 And young Monmouth himself courted refuge in flight ;  
 He was captured, however, and soon being tried,  
 Was condemned—and the death of a traitor he died.

Many others accused of disloyalty shared  
 The same fate ; for the monarch in anger declared  
 That, his rights to maintain, he intended to push  
 A.D. His revenge to the last, and all treason to crush.  
 1685 Then Judge *Jeffreys*, that cruel and bloodthirsty man,  
 His notorious reign of injustice began ;  
 And the nation regarded with horror and awe  
 The unlimited power usurped by the law.  
 Many innocent men he condemned without trial,  
 Too ferocious to wait for excuse or denial ;  
 And he loaded with insult and ruffianly gibes  
 All but those who were able to offer him bribes.

1686 Then the monarch declared that with *tests* he'd  
 dispense,  
 Keep a large *standing army*, at England's expense,  
 And grant every Papist his aid and defence—  
 All of which gave the nation the deepest offence :  
 For, so strong was his love for the Catholic cause,  
 That he boldly repealed all restrictions and laws  
 Then enacted against them ; and, further, decreed  
 That the clergy his royal *Indulgence* should read  
 1688 In the Churches : which seven good bishops refused,  
 And were promptly of libel and treason accused :  
 They were *Lloyd, Turner, Ken, White, Trelawney, and*  
*Lake,*  
 Who with *Sancroft* (the Primate) the full seven make :

HISTORY: But the judges acquitted them all of the charge,  
 The House Very much to the joy of the nation at large.  
 of Stuart.

Still the rule of the king grew more reckless and bold,  
 Till the wrath of the people burst forth uncontroll'd :  
 A.D. For the monarch they felt nought but fear and disgust,  
 1688 And determined that James from the throne should be  
 thrust.

Now Prince William of Orange (referred to before)  
 At this juncture a faithful adherent sent o'er,  
 Just to see if the people were all of one mind,  
 And to have a new king—say *himself*—were inclin'd.  
 His ambassador managed the matter so well  
 That their answer for James and his rule was a *knell* :  
 1688 They invited the prince to regard them as friends,  
 And assist them in promptly obtaining amends  
 From the king, who so gravely his trust had abused  
 And compliance with England's good laws had refused.

When the terrible news reached the ears of the king  
 He determined to try what repentance would bring :  
 But remorse was too late—to the nation 'twas clear  
 That this sudden improvement came only from *fear* ;  
 And his popular rival, in warlike array,  
 1688 Disembarked with a powerful force at *Torbay*.  
 He was speedily joined by allies of all ranks,  
 Who were eager to tender him welcome and thanks ;  
 And Lord *Churchill*, who every favour enjoyed  
 At the hands of King James, all his talents employed  
 In persuading the English no longer to wait,  
 But desert to the prince—and leave James to his fate.

The unfortunate monarch looked vainly around  
 For a friend in whose face some regard might be found :

HISTORY: On all sides were his foes ; but the worst blow of all  
 The House Was to feel that his children rejoiced in his fall :  
 of Stuart. Princess *Mary*, the wife of his rival the prince,  
 Was against him of course ; nor did *Anne* e'er evince  
 Any filial affection, or grieve for his woes,  
 For she left him—alone to encounter his foes.

The poor monarch his danger perceived at a glance,  
 And concluded to make his escape into France ;  
 He was captured, but treated with scorn and neglect,  
 Nor, indeed, was his personal freedom much check'd :  
 He was almost *permitted* to make his retreat  
 A.D. Into France—a sad blow for his kingly conceit !  
 1688 While the prince was enjoined by the nation to call  
 A *Convention*—which gravely decreed that the fall  
 Of their late monarch *James*, whose misdeeds were well  
 known,  
 Should result in the prince being placed on the throne :  
 But, aware of the power a monarch could wield,  
 They required him certain concessions to yield ;  
 And, as *William* his full acquiescence declared,  
 1689 The renowned *Declaration of Rights* was prepared  
 (All the terms and conditions of which shall appear  
 When we come to the *Bill of Rights*, passed the same  
 year) :  
 It was gravely decided that he and his wife  
 Should hold sway undisputed o'er England for life ;  
 After which, if they died without heirs, 'twas agreed  
 That the daughter of *James*, Princess *Anne*, should suc-  
 ceed :  
 And 'twas thus, by the will of the nation alone,  
 That King *William*, and *Mary*, ascended the throne.

## HISTORY:

The House  
of Orange.

## WILLIAM AND MARY.

- BUT the hapless King James was determined to make  
A strong effort from William the Crown to retake ;  
A.D. And, assisted by Louis the Fourteenth of France,  
1689 He now landed in Ireland, and made his advance  
Into *Dublin*, where *Talbot*, who governed the land,  
Placed an army of Catholics at his command.  
But King William sent *Schomberg* to keep him at bay,  
And soon followed, himself, in full battle array,  
His own army with that of brave *Schomberg* to join—  
1690 And defeated King James at the battle of *Boyne* :  
When the latter, perceiving how slight was his chance  
Of success against William, returned into France.  
Many spirited battles were afterwards fought  
By the Irish supporters of James, but were fraught  
With defeat to the *Jacobites* (one of the names  
Of the Catholic friends and adherents of James) :  
Till at length, finding all their endeavours in vain,  
They decided to close such a futile campaign,  
1691 And by treaty, at *Limerick*, gladly agreed  
To the peace of which Ireland was sadly in need.

- Now King William, on pleasing the nation intent,  
[1689] To the great Bill of Rights had expressed his assent:—  
It decreed 'twas illegal for kings to pretend  
By their power alone any laws to suspend ;  
Or to levy harsh taxes just when they thought fit ;  
Or to summon High Courts of Commission to sit :  
That the right to petition the king should ne'er cease ;  
Nor should large standing armies be kept up in peace  
That all Protestant subjects such weapons might wear  
As would serve for defence and keep robbers in fear  
That all members of Parliament freely might speak,  
Without dread of rebuke or of hostile critique :

HISTORY: That *inordinate punishments, merciless fines,*  
 The House And *extortionate penalties* (ominous signs  
 of Orange. Of tyrannical rule to which England had bowed)  
*Should in future by no means be used or allowed ;*  
 And that *Parliament* (either to help or defeat  
 The designs of the monarch) *should frequently meet.*  
 The above are the terms of this notable Act  
 In a form which, we hope, is complete and compact.

Now King James had retired to France, but his cause  
 Was maintained by the French for some years without  
 pause ;

A.D.  
 [1690] And off *Beachy Head*, much to their joyful surprise,  
 They defeated the English and Dutch—now allies.  
 Two years after, however, the scales were reversed  
 1692 Off *La Hogue*, when the French men-of-war were dis-  
 persed,  
 And King James once again was obliged to return  
 Into France, and there hope that his fortunes might  
 turn.

1692 Now the haughty *Macdonalds*, of Scottish renown,  
 Having dared to deny William's right to the Crown  
 Of their country—and scorning submission to show,  
 Were dispatched in cold blood in the *Vale of Glencoe*.

1692 England's National Debt was established this year  
 (Of its use ev'ry boy from his father may hear) :

1694 And then, also, the *Bank*, that important stronghold  
 Of some millions of notes, copper, silver, and gold.

1694 And now William of Mary his queen was bereft,  
 By whose death to rule England alone he was left.

HISTORY:

WILLIAM III.

The House  
of Orange.

- AND the task was not easy, that obstinate strife  
 Between England and Louis of France being rife :  
 A.D. 1695 A decisive engagement at *Namur* was fought,  
 And with utter defeat to the latter was fraught ;  
 But the other great Powers of Europe concurred  
 In advising that truce should no more be deferred :  
 And soon after, too glad that their struggles should  
 cease,  
 1697 The opponents at *Ryswick* agreed to make peace.

- For a moment we pause, into notice to bring  
 [1696] A great plot now discovered to murder the king :  
 The chief traitor was *Barclay*, a Scotchman, employed  
 By King James (who with hopes of the Crown was still  
 buoyed)  
 To promote a revolt which might possibly lead  
 To his reigning once more over England indeed.  
 But the murderous scheme through the country soon  
 rang,  
 And the just execution of six of the gang  
 Put an end to the plot, and reminded his foes  
 Of the power the king could exert if he chose.

- But perhaps the most noted event of this reign,  
 And the one that our strictest attention should gain,  
 1701 Was the passing this year of the *Settlement Act*—  
 To define the Succession and keep it intact.  
 It provided that *Anne* to the throne should succeed  
 At the death of King William : and further decreed  
 That the heirs of the latter (if *Anne* should have none)  
 On her death were entitled to come to the throne :  
 But, on failure of heirs, the succession should vest  
 In *Sophia*, Grand-Duchess of Hanover—lest



HISTORY: Any Catholic claimant a right should prefer,  
 The House When a fresh revolution no doubt would occur.  
 of Stuart.

This great statute contained other clauses as well,  
 All the details of which would take pages to tell :  
 Their effect was to limit the sway of the Crown,  
 Which for several reigns too despotic had grown ;  
 And to settle such other small matters of State  
 As had suffered neglect, or perversion, of late.

Ere the death of the king left the throne to Queen  
 Anne

. The great war of the *Spanish Succession* began ;  
 But we think 'twill be better the cause to explain  
 When we come (as in due course we shall) to her reign ;  
 For, this year, as the monarch was taking a ride,  
 His too spirited charger grew restive, and *shied*—  
 Throwing William to earth, with such fatal effect,  
 That his mortal career prematurely was check'd ;  
 After fifteen short days of suspense had but flown  
 He expired, and Anne then ascended the throne.

A.D.

1702

1702

ANNE.

THIS young queen (by the Act of Succession preferr'd  
 To her brother, who else would have been *James the Third*)  
 Was employed through her short but yet notable reign  
 In conducting the war against Louis and Spain.  
 'Twill be asked how the struggle commenced, and we fear  
 We must go back a little the cause to make clear :—

*Charles the Second*, of Spain, being blessed with no  
 heirs,

Many claimants contended the throne should be theirs,

HISTORY: Tho' this king was induced, when approaching his death,  
 The House To the grandson of Louis the Crown to bequeath :  
 of Stuart. But the Emperor *Leopold* strongly desired  
 That *his* son should be crowned when King Charles had  
 expired ;

A.D.  
 [1698]

And the claimants, in fact, were so eager to reign  
 That King William advised a *partition* of Spain—  
 By which simple arrangement the strife was subdued  
 Till by Charles's decease it again was renewed :  
 The heir, *Philip of Anjou*, ascended the throne  
 (By the will of his dead predecessor alone) :  
 But the Emperor Leopold, seeking the aid  
 Of King William of England, a compact was made  
 Between them and the Dutch, with the resolute aim  
 Of supporting by forcible measures the claim  
 Of the German Archduke (*Charles*), the Emperor's  
 son,

Tho' till many years after no war was begun.  
 But the treaty still held—all was ripe for the fray  
 That was sure to break out at some subsequent day ;  
 And, in fact, having welcomed Queen Anne to the throne,  
 To her subjects it soon became very well known  
 That she meant the identical course to pursue  
 Which her brother-in-law had so clearly in view :  
*He* intended that Philip no longer should reign,  
 But that Charles, the archduke, should be monarch of  
 Spain :

1702

And, of this well aware, his successor, Queen Anne,  
 The great war of the Spanish Succession began.

The renowned Duke of *Marlborough* (he who had been  
 But a page of the Court) was now made by Queen Anne  
 Captain-General over the whole of the force  
 Which was shortly to run such a glorious course.

HISTORY: After war was declared and was raging amain  
 The House of Stuart. Sir George Rooke took the fort of *Gibraltar* from Spain :  
 Then at *Blenheim* a terrible battle was fought,  
 Which the greatest by far of them all has been thought :  
 'Twas by Marlborough's genius we triumphed that day  
 A.D. O'er the French and Bavarian hostile array ;  
 1704 But he was not content with this signal defeat,  
 1706 And the French at *Ramilies* he forced to retreat :  
 1708-9 Then at *Oudenarde*, then at *Malplaquet*, the foe  
 Were compelled the white flag of submission to show ;  
 And all over the Continent Marlborough's name  
 A rebuke to the foes of Old England became.  
 He was ably supported on land and at sea  
 By some heroes of war no less valiant than he :  
 Such as General *Stanhope*, *George Rooke*, *Prince Eugene*,  
 Who at various times had appeared on the scene ;  
 They won several battles of minor import,  
 And efficient assistance to Marlborough brought.

While the war is thus raging, a moment we turn  
 (That our claim to completeness we fairly may earn)  
 To what happened in England, where peace reigned  
 supreme  
 Save for many a crafty political scheme:—

Between England and Scotland a union compact  
 [1707] Was by statute achieved—which remarkable act,  
 Having settled the Crown on the Protestant line  
 Of *Sophia* and heirs—then went on to define  
 All the rights and the duties that each should retain  
 And the benefits all by the union would gain:  
 It decreed that they both should have *freedom of*  
*trade* ;  
 And that Church-loving Scotchmen need not be afraid

HISTORY: That their Church then established would be overthrown,  
 The House For, as England had hers, *so might they keep their own* :  
 of Stuart. 'Twas provided that Scotland should also preserve  
 Her municipal laws and her courts ; but, observe,  
 That *one Parliament was to suffice for the two*,  
 And that *forty-five members* for Scotland must do ;  
 Tho' she might, if she chose, have a voice in the *Lords*,  
 A.D. And send sixteen Scotch peers to give weight to her words.  
 [1707] The first true *British* Parliament, therefore, soon met—  
 And this notable fact we must never forget.

Dr. *Sacheverell*, that unruly divine,  
 1710 Was convicted this year of a wicked design  
 To set men of dissimilar faith by the ears  
 By seditious discussions and libellous sneers :  
 His suspension was ordered, his sermons were burnt,  
 As from them it was thought little good could be learnt ;  
 But the mob in his cause was so warmly devout  
 That the sentence was ne'er to the full carried out.

Ere reverting again to the war, we must pause  
 To reflect on the folly of *human applause* :—  
 Here was Marlborough doing his utmost to raise  
 The prestige of the English—for glory and praise :  
 And attempting his lowly descent to erase  
 From the mind of the nation—for glory and praise :  
 And exhibit his courage and pluck to the gaze  
 Of the *vulgum profanum*—for glory and praise :  
 And enjoining his duchess to study the ways  
 Of her sovereign's temper—for glory and praise :  
 And to humour and truckle to every phase  
 Of that soft-hearted lady—for glory and praise :  
 Till at last she had got the good queen in a maze  
 Of propitious affection—for glory and praise !

HISTORY: All his efforts were vain: the bright star which had  
 The House shone  
 of Stuart.

For so long o'er his head was at last overthrown:—

*Mrs. Masham*, another great lady at Court,

With a woman's strategical courage had wrought

The esteem of the queen for the duchess to lower,

With the object of bringing the Tories in power.

Being one of that party, and true to the core,

She determined to office her side to restore;

But the duke, with the duchess, and most of their  
 friends

Were strong Whigs—so, to serve her political ends

(And the love of Queen Anne for the duchess reduce),

*Mrs. Masham* descended to every *ruse*:

At her instance the duchess was banished from Court

And the Tories at once into office were brought.

Now the duke was engaged in the struggle abroad,

And in every battle his foes overaw'd;

But the English were anxious for peace, and declared

That the French from their hostile attacks should be  
 spared:

On the other hand, Marlborough wished to pursue

His triumphant career, with the laudable view

Of completing the work he so bravely began

And augmenting the glory and might of Queen Anne.

Still the Tories were in, and refused their consent

To more money and blood on the war being spent:

They were jealous of Marlborough—envied his rise,

And regarded his deeds with inimical eyes:

A.D.

1711

He was even accused of accepting a bribe

From a member of Judah's long suffering tribe,

Who contracted to furnish the army with bread,

And gave Marlborough some of the profits, 'tis said:

HISTORY: Being fully convicted of conduct so base  
 The House 'Twas in vain that he tried to avert his disgrace :  
 of Stuart. He retired to Antwerp ; and there for a time  
 We shall leave him alone to reflect on his crime.

A.D. Then all parties agreed that the struggle should cease,  
 1713 And by treaty at *Utrecht* concluded a peace—  
 Which was not to the honour of England at all,  
 Being rather the end of a sneakish *cabal* :  
 In this treaty of peace it was specially urged  
 That *the French in the Spanish Crown ne'er should be*  
*merged ;*  
 And that *Louis of France should no longer object*  
*To the English Succession, in any respect :*  
 But 'tis worthy of note that it did not contain  
 Any clauses affecting King Philip of Spain ;  
 And, in fact, it appeared to completely o'erlook  
 The sole cause for which Anne this great war undertook.

1714 Now Sophia, Electress of Hanover, died—  
 So the sceptre of England to *her* was denied ;  
 But more serious news throughout England now ran  
 When (the very same year) she was followed by Anne ;  
 And Prince George (the first English king bearing that  
*name*)  
 To the throne, which was thus rendered vacant, now came :  
 He was son of Sophia : grand-daughter was she  
 To the first of the Stuarts, and therefore we see  
 That, although he was foreign by birth, he could claim  
 Some connection with England's great kings all the same.

*Having finished the Stuarts, we pause for awhile  
 The chief facts to review, in our usual style :—*

**HISTORY:** *We have seen how the first of the line took the throne,*  
**The House** *And thus added another domain to his own :*  
**of Stuart.** *How the "Main" and the "Bye" and the "Gun-*  
*powder" plots*  
*Were attempted against that most canny of Scots :*  
*Of the downfall of Raleigh we also have read,*  
*And of Bacon, by fatal temptation misled.*  
*We have witnessed the hapless King Charles in sad plight*  
*With his Parliaments : read the Petition of Right ;*  
*And have seen how the power to tax was abused—*  
*But how "Ship-money" was by John Hampden refused :*  
*We have read of the old Scottish "Covenant" too ;*  
*And perceived how the might of the Parliament grew,*  
*Till at length the fierce strife between Commons and King*  
*Made the country with civil commotion to ring :*  
*The great battles they fought, and the terrible fate*  
*Of King Charles, our rhymes very fully relate.*  
*How the hopes of the second King Charles were o'erthrown,*  
*And how Cromwell usurped all the rights of the Crown,*  
*But for England's prestige, ne'ertheless, did so much*  
*In his famous and obstinate wars with the Dutch :*  
*How the nation obeyed him and bowed to his thrall,*  
*Till his death made them glad the true king to recall.*  
*We have read of the second King Charles thus restored,*  
*And his statutes, and notable battles abroad :*  
*Of the Plague, and the Fire of London, and all*  
*The notorious members who formed the "Cabal :"*  
*We have seen how religion bred strife through the realm,*  
*And gave rise to dark schemes the poor king to o'er-*  
*whelm :*  
*How the Habeas Corpus Act granted relief*  
*To all prisoners, also we've noted in brief.*  
*We remember how Charles was succeeded by James,*  
*And how Monmouth put forward his impudent claims ;*



HISTORY: *How religion again was the cause of much strife*  
 The *And embittered the ill-advised sovereign's life :*  
 House of *And how William of Orange was called to protect*  
 Hanover. *England's rights, and King James from the throne to eject :*  
*Of the efforts of James to recover his Crown,*  
*That by William (then William the Third) were put*  
*down :*  
*Of the great Bill of Rights, which was passed in this reign ;*  
*And the Settlement Act : how the struggle with Spain*  
*(On account of the Spanish Succession) began,*  
*And was carried on during the reign of Queen Anne.*  
*We have read of great Marlborough's famous campaign*  
*And the glorious triumphs he managed to gain :*  
*How the sceptres of England and Scotland were merged ;*  
*And how Sacheverell on profanity verged :*  
*And, in fine, how the death of Sophia, the heir,*  
*And of Anne shortly afterwards, left all the care*  
*Of the regal estate to Sophia's own son—*  
*For already his reign (in the text) has begun.*

## THE HOUSE OF HANOVER.

A.D.  
1714

## GEORGE I.

Now the second King James in obscurity died,  
 But his son to recover the Crown had long tried :  
 He was called the *Pretender* (his name being James),  
 Tho' to England's dominion his birth gave him claims.  
 A revolt in his favour in Scotland arose  
 Which King George was obliged to take arms to oppose :  
 Of young James's adherents the bravest by far  
 Were the Jacobite Earls *Derwentwater* and *Mar* ;  
 1715 But at *Sheriffmuir* Mar was compelled to retreat,  
 And at *Preston* his side also met with defeat :

HISTORY: The Pretender, despairing, to France hurried o'er,  
 The And determined to brave the king's vengeance no more.  
 House of  
 Hanover.

A.D. (The *Septennial Act* now decreed it was fit  
 1716 That o'er *seven* years Parliament never should sit.)

Then, in order to check the ambition of Spain  
 (Of whose power her statesmen were terribly vain),  
 1718 The *Quadruple Alliance* was formed, to maintain  
 Throughout Europe the peace which all wished to retain.  
 Against *Sicily* Spain was preparing for war,  
 The intentions of which 'twas important to mar;  
 So these four—England, Germany, France, and the  
 Dutch,  
 Being friends, made a solemn alliance, as such.  
 But when Admiral *Byng*, by the English despatched,  
 Off *Passaro* the fleet of the Spaniards o'ermatched,  
 The rash rulers of Spain to their senses were brought,  
 And for some years no further engagement was fought.

1720 (The renowned *South Sea Company*, founded this year,  
 Was empowered the debt of the nation to bear  
 On a mercantile system, to City men clear,  
 Though 'twould only be useless to treat of it here.  
 Ne'ertheless we must say, without doubt it would seem  
 That the project was nought but a rascally scheme:  
 Quite a mania for *stock* of the company spread  
 Throughout England; and many a man lost his head  
 At the thought of the riches he surely would earn  
 By investing his money in such a concern:  
 But the *bubble* soon burst—and away flew the gold,  
 Leaving thousands of dupes unmistakably "sold!"  
 While the credit of England remained in a state  
 Which all *Walpole's* endeavours could hardly put straight.)

HISTORY: Ere the death of the king, the Pretender again  
 The Tried to forward his claims to the throne; but in vain.  
 House of Bishop *Atterbury*, for the treason he plann'd  
 Hanover. In the Jacobite cause, was dismissed from the land.  
 A.D.  
 1723

Now, omitting some *riots* of minor import,  
 To a close the events of this reign we have brought:  
 Apoplexy this year the poor monarch struck down,  
 1727 And his son, as the second King George, took the Crown.

1727

## GEORGE II.

THE first ten or twelve years of the new monarch's reign  
 No occurrence of any importance contain:  
 But the course of events made it evident soon  
 That the friendship of Spain was no longer a boon,  
 And must terminate shortly, whatever the cost,  
 Or the *prestige* of England would surely be lost.  
 For a Spanish official had shamefully used  
 A sea-captain of England, and even abused  
 The king's name; and in England the popular wrath  
 In demanding revenge against Spain now burst forth.  
 'Twas determined the insult with force to resent,  
 1739 And to humble the Spaniards brave *Vernon* was sent:  
 He soon took with his fleet *Porto Bello* from Spain,  
 And successful he certainly was, in the main.

While this war was proceeding another arose,  
 And the English were forced to encounter new foes:  
 For the Austrian Emperor *Charles* having died,  
 To his daughter the Crown was unjustly denied;  
 But *Maria Theresa* discovered a friend  
 In King George, who resolved his assistance to lend  
 To discomfit her rival (*Bavaria's* prince)  
 Who for her little gallantry cared to evince.

HISTORY: Now the claim of the princee was supported by France  
 The And by Spain—against whom she had clearly no chance  
 House of Were it not for the help of King George—who declared  
 Hanover. That no efforts of his in her cause should be spared.  
 A.D. 1743 He was good as his word, and defeated the French  
 Before *Dettingen*—nor from the fray did he blench  
 Tho' the thunders of war raged on every side  
 And his pluck and endurance severely were tried.

1745 But at *Fontenoy* France was triumphant, altho'  
 'Twas the fault of the Dutch that the fight ended so;  
 For the cowards deserted their English allies  
 And took flight—to the latter's disgust and surprise.  
 (Three years afterwards offers of peace were renewed,  
 [1748] And at *Aix-la-Chapelle* the fierce strife was subdued.)

Now another rebellion in Scotland arose,  
 To enthrone the Pretender and George to depose;  
 1745 And at *Preston Pans* Charles (the Pretender's own  
 son),  
 With a Jacobite force, o'er the Royalists won  
 A great triumph: and followed it up the next year  
 With another at *Falkirk*: but, scorning all fear,  
 Valiant *Cumberland* cheered on his men to the fray,  
 1746 And the English at *Culloden Moor* gained the day.  
 This defeat was so crushing that Charles was compelled  
 To take flight—and this famous rebellion was quelled.

We must try to explain (though to do so in rhyme  
 Is not easy) the "New Style," arranged at this time:—  
 Cæsar thought (and he'd great astronomical pow'rs)  
 That *three hundred and sixty-five days and six hours*  
 Was the length of a year—and accordingly framed,  
 In this learned belief, his own Calendar famed:

HISTORY: But the deeper research, through an interval long,  
 The House of Of Pope *Gregory*, showed that great Cæsar was *wrong* :  
 Hanover. That *the third of September the fourteenth should be*  
 (The importance of which it is easy to see) ;  
 While, instead of occurring in *March* (as of erst),  
*New Year's Day should of January be the first!*  
 So these changes were made—they are recognised yet,  
 As you know : but the *cause* you must never forget.

Then the war between England and France was renewed,  
 For their enmity ne'er had been wholly subdued :  
 And the wrath of the English could not be appeased  
 A.D. When the French on *Minorca* soon afterwards seized  
 1756 Now the Austrians lent their assistance to France,  
 While the Prussians to England made friendly advance,  
 And for seven long years the fierce struggle had raged  
 Ere the feelings that prompted the war were assuaged.

But King George's attention was called at this time  
 To the urgent affairs of a far-distant clime,  
 Namely *India*—where *Surajah Dowlah* had seized  
 On *Calcutta*, and all its inhabitants squeezed  
 Into what very aptly was called the *Black Hole*,  
 Without water or food—by which nearly the whole  
 Died a lingering death—an iniquitous deed  
 Which made England so wrathful that war was decreed,  
 And the courage of *Clive*, inexhaustible quite,  
 Throughout *India* established our glory and might ;  
 1757 For at *Plassy* he put the *Surajah* to rout,  
 And of England's superior force left no doubt.

While this war was proceeding, the English and French  
 Were engaged with a fury which nothing could quench ;

- HISTORY:** But at *Minden* the French were defeated ; and next,  
**The** To the English possessions *Quebec* was annex'd,  
**House of** Being captured by *Wolfe* from the French—a success  
**Hanover.**  
**A.D.** Which was marred by the death of *Wolfe* : nevertheless  
**1759** The result was that, having so bravely begun,  
**1760** The whole province of *Canada* England soon won.

This important event was the last of the reign ;  
 For as George the First, so George the Second, again,  
 Was deprived of his life and his regal estate  
 By a sudden though perfectly natural fate :  
 And his son having died before him, it was meet  
 That *his* son should succeed to his grandfather's seat ;  
 And, accordingly, George the Third came to the throne  
 Which for sixty long years he retained as his own.

1760

## GEORGE III.

- Now the war with the French was proceeding apace :  
 To describe it in full we have hardly the space :  
 The engagements were many—and nine out of ten  
 Were great victories won by the English ; and then  
 Spain united with France as her friend and ally  
**1762** And proceeded the strength of their union to try :  
 But the English were dauntless, and ne'er did they cease  
 From the struggle till all had agreed to make peace.  
 By the *Treaty of Paris* the seven years' feud  
**1763** Between England and France now, at last, was subdued,  
 And the conquests they each had attained, 'twas arranged,  
 Should be kept by the victors, or fairly exchanged.

'Twas this year that *John Wilkes*, who had ventured to  
 poke  
 His indecorous fun at the Premier, and joke

HISTORY: At the Treaty of Paris, was called to account  
 The House of Hanover. For presuming so freely his libels to flout.  
 In the famous "North Briton" his views were expressed,  
 And this paper was therefore condemned and suppressed :  
 But the people, it seems, well supported his cause—  
 And such persons enjoy democratic applause !  
 At the order, however, of those he besmirched  
 His own house by a *General Warrant* was searched,  
 To discover what papers (if any) remained  
 In his keeping and similar libels contained ;  
 And his case is remarkable more from this fact  
 Than from anything else ; for he fiercely attack'd  
 The legality (which had been questioned before)  
 Of a General Warrant to break a man's door !  
 The opinion of eminent lawyers was had,  
 Who declared that all General Warrants were bad :  
 After which, although Wilkes was reluctant to stop  
 His attacks, the vex'd question was suffered to drop.

Now the cost of the recent campaign against France  
 Was so great that, the national funds to enhance,  
 The Prime Minister, *Grenville*, most foolishly thought  
 That to share the expenses *America* ought.  
 At that time we had many large colonies there,  
 And that they should contribute, he said, 'twas but fair :  
 So he taxed them, by making the Stamp Act (in force  
 Throughout England) apply as a matter of course  
 To America—little foreseeing the feud  
 'Twould occasion—and which, in good earnest, ensued :  
 For the Colonists thought themselves sorely abused,  
 And to help the Old Country they flatly refused :  
 Many serious riots and tumults occur'd,  
 Of which England with fear and anxiety heard ;  
 Till the measure by *Pitt* was so fiercely attack'd  
 In the House, that he gained a repeal of the Act.

A.D.  
1765



- HISTORY:** For a time was the wrath of the Colonists lulled :  
**The** But against those of England their interests pulled :  
**House of**  
**Hanover.** They were ripe for revolt, and before many years  
 They had realised England's most terrible fears.  
 They were ready to catch at the slightest pretence  
 To take umbrage ; and soon they discovered offence  
**A.D.** In a tax upon *tea*, which was laid by Lord *North*,  
**1773** When their slumbering rage against England burst forth.  
 The harsh taxes they paid, their commercial restraints,  
 Were two prominent points of the rebels' complaints :  
 Their non-representation in Parliament too  
 Made them feel that with England they'd nothing to do.  
 They renounced their allegiance, and war was declared,  
 For which England was then very badly prepared :  
**1775** The king's forces at *Lexington* suffered defeat ;  
 And at *Bunker's Hill* only just managed to beat  
 Their determined opponents, who vowed to maintain  
**1776** *Independence*, and ne'er be subjected again.  
 Though the English were able some battles to gain  
 They were making their desperate efforts in vain ;  
 And when *Burgoyne* was forced to surrender his arms  
**1777** (Having failed to defend *Saratoga*), the charms  
 Of a full *Independence* grew more and more dear  
 As the rebels perceived it was drawing so near.  
 The defeat of *Burgoyne* was decisive, and led  
 To the coveted freedom for which they had bled.

The remainder of George the Third's wonderful reign  
 Was a scene of fierce battles with France and with  
 Spain ;  
 For the French had acknowledged, to England's disgust,  
 That America's title to freedom was just :  
 While the Spaniards, perceiving the hostile intent  
 Of the English, to France their assistance now lent ;

HISTORY: Off *St. Vincent* brave *Rodney* a victory won  
 The O'er the Spaniards, soon after the war had begun ;  
 House of Then at *Guadaloupe* he was successful again,  
 Hanover. A.D.  
 1782 And the French to acknowledge his prowess were fain ;  
 While *Gibraltar*, besieged for four years was relieved—  
 Which success by the gallant Lord *Howe* was achieved.

But America, now independent and free,  
 Was disposed towards England more friendly to be :  
 And when this to the Spaniards and French became clear,  
 They agreed to make peace, which was signed the next year  
 1783 At *Versailles*—and the conquests each side had obtained  
 Were arranged—some returned and some others retained.  
 The complete Independence America sought  
 Was moreover acknowledged by England : which brought  
 The American war to a definite end,  
 And allowed the two nations in friendship to blend.

While the heroes of England were wielding the sword  
 We must note that *George Gordon*, a scatter-brained  
 lord,  
 [1780] Had incited a riotous mob to attack  
 All the Catholic chapels—rich mansions to sack,  
 And break open the prisons—his ill-advised zeal  
 Against Catholics seeming his senses to steal.  
 He was sent to the Tower, and there kept confined,  
 While the chief of the rebels to death were consigned.

Now the rule of the English in India provoked  
 Many powerful natives, whose wrath was invoked  
 By their helpless condition (which irksome they found)  
 And the numerous fines which to pay they were bound  
 'Twas not easy, indeed, to keep all going well,  
 And the Governor had many tumults to quell ;

HISTORY: But the slightest mistake, the most trivial flaw  
 The In his judgment, was fatal—and called for the law  
 House of To investigate: such was the course which this year  
 Hanover. England brought upon poor *Warren Hastings* to bear.  
 A.D. He had governed in India with prudence and skill  
 1787 For some time, as by all was admitted—but still  
 He at last was accused of misrule in the land  
 Over which he was given entire command.  
 His impeachment resulted in seven years' trial,  
 Though to all the grave charges he gave a denial:  
 He was fully (and justly) acquitted at last,  
 And in peaceful seclusion his old age he past.

- 1789 The great French Revolution commenced in this year,  
 But we only think fit to allude to it here  
 Because England was forced to take part in the strife  
 Which cost Louis the Sixteenth his crown and his life.  
 Nearly every power in Europe combin'd  
 Against Buonaparte: all of them seemed of one mind,  
 And determined to crush that adventurous man  
 Whose victorious armies all Europe o'erran.  
 The renown of the English was bravely maintained
- 1794 By Lord *Howe*, who off *Brest* a great victory gained:  
 Then the Dutch and the Spaniards, with France making  
 friends,  
 Declared war against England to serve their own ends:  
 Thus the English had France, Spain, and Holland to fight,  
 But their victories proved they were "up to it" quite:  
 Under *Jervis*, and *Duncan*, and *Nelson*, their fame  
 As a conquering nation a bye-word became.  
 Sir John Jervis attacked and defeated the foe
- 1797 Off *St. Vincent*: at *Camperdown* Duncan could show  
 As complete a success; while, in glorious style,
- 1798 Valiant Nelson defeated the French at the *Nile*.

- HISTORY: And when Buonaparte tried to storm *Acre*, he found  
 The *Sidney Smith* was quite able to stand his own ground :  
 House of *Alexandria*, too, was the scene of a fight  
 Hanover.  
 A.D. In which England soon proved her superior might :  
 1801 While before *Copenhagen* brave Nelson once more,  
 Gained a glorious triumph—and though there were four  
 Very powerful nations against him array'd,  
 Of them all put together he was not afraid—  
 And the *Russian*, the *Prussian*, the *Swede*, and the *Dane*,  
 Were convinced that to Nelson resistance was vain.

- 1802 Shortly after, the English, French, Spanish, and Dutch  
 Made a treaty at *Amiens*—which meant nothing much,  
 Being merely a truce, not an end of the feud,  
 Which the very next year by the French was renew'd.

- But the moment is fitting to edge in a verse  
 About Ireland, the state of which country grew worse  
 Every year ; and to show how Great Britain and she  
 One united and prosperous realm came to be.  
 For an Irish revolt, which was promptly suppress'd,  
 Led the statesmen of England to think 'twould be best  
 (As such tumults seemed likely enough ne'er to cease)  
 To unite the two countries in friendship and peace.  
 [1800] As the Irish agreed, 'twas accordingly done—  
 And Great Britain and Ireland thus became one ;  
 With one national Church which might serve for the two,  
 And but one representative Parliament, too.

- 1803 Now the war with the French recommenced, from no  
 cause  
 Of sufficient importance to lead us to pause  
 And explain it : suffice it to state, as a fact,  
 That the war recommenced—and that Buonaparte, back'd

**HISTORY:** By his wonderful genius and warlike prestige,  
**The** Had persuaded the French to appoint him their liege,  
**House of** And conducted in person the terrible strife  
**Hanover.** Against England, which cost him his freedom and life.  
**A.D.**  
**1805** At *Trafalgar* brave Nelson faced danger and death,  
 But rejoiced at his triumph with last dying breath;  
 And then *Wellesley* (who very soon after became  
 The renowned Duke of *Wellington*) brightened his fame  
 By the glorious triumphs he managed to gain  
 O'er the French, who were now making war against Spain.

As these battles were many, their names will be all  
 To which *space* will allow us attention to call  
 (Nor can accent nor metre, we're sadly afraid,  
 In the following verses be carefully weighed):—  
**1808-9** *Vimiera* (by *Wellesley*)—*Corunna* (by *Moore*)  
**1809-10** *Talavera* and *Busaco* (*Wellesley*)—make four:  
**1811** Then *Fuentes d'Onora* (by *Wellington* gained)  
**1811-12** And *Albuera*; *Cuidad Rodrigo* remained  
 To be conquered—and *was* by this hero of fame;  
**1812** As was *Badajoz*: then *Salamanca* became  
**1813** The great scene of his glory: *Vittoria* next;  
**1814** Then *Toulouse*—on which *Buonaparte*, harassed and vex'd  
 By repeated discomfiture, gave up the throne,  
 Which he held by his courage and daring alone.  
 He retired to *Elba*; and France had again  
 A legitimate king o'er her people to reign;  
**1814** While by treaty at *Paris* the struggle was stay'd,  
 And the peace so much needed was joyfully made.

It but lasted a year: and then *Buonaparte* fled  
**1815** From his irksome confinement at *Elba*, and sped  
 O'er to France, his opponents to fitly requite  
 For withholding the crown which he thought was his right

HISTORY: The old feud was awakened—the watchful Allies  
 The Were resolved to prevent him from seizing the prize ;  
 House of And a glorious battle, at *Waterloo* fought,  
 Hanover. A.D. To despair this unhappy adventurer brought :—  
 1815 On a far distant isle, *St. Helena*, he spent  
 His last days in a restless and sad discontent :  
 And thus ended at length this remarkable strife  
 With the French, which for twenty-two years had been rife.

(You must know that this reign for great men was  
 renown'd,

And their names in due order are here to be found :—  
 Among Statesmen the foremost was Pitt, the great son  
 Of Lord *Chatham*, who much for his country had done :  
 And then Grenville and North—both inferior far  
 To young Pitt—who provoked the American war.  
 Among Warriors Wellington holds the first place,  
 And no time the renown of his deeds can efface :  
 Then John Moore, Sidney Smith, *Abercrombie*—all three  
 Valiant heroes whose names ne'er forgotten will be.  
 When for glorious “Sons of the Ocean” we look,  
 Nelson, *Keppel*, *Hood*, Rodney, Howe, Duncan, and *Cook*  
 Stand pre-eminent—all but the last being famed  
 For great sea-fights—and *he* the great honour has claimed  
 Of completing three tours round the world, with the view  
 Of discovering oceans and continents new.  
 There were Lawyers and Poets and Authors as well,  
 But of these there is scarcely occasion to tell ;  
 So this notable reign to an end we shall bring,  
 By adverting at once to the death of the king :—  
 After nine years' affliction of mental disease  
 1820 This great monarch in death found a welcome release ;  
 And his eldest son George, of unworthy renown  
 For gallantry and foppishness, then took the crown.



## HISTORY:

The  
House of  
Hanover.

## GEORGE IV.

A.D.  
1820

THE first year of his reign the queen, *Caroline*, fell  
 'Neath the monarch's displeasure; and sad 'tis to tell  
 Of her trial for misconduct, abandoned, indeed,  
 But which broke her too sensitive heart, as we read.

Now both *Turkey* and *Egypt* made war upon *Greece*,  
 With the view that her free independence should cease;  
 But the English, the French, and the Russians combin'd  
 1827 To save *Greece* from her foes: *Navarino*, we find,  
 Was the scene of a glorious victory, won  
 By these friendly allies: other wars there were none  
 Of importance: in fact with this reign we have done—  
 For soon after this dissolute king, having run  
 O'er the *threescore and ten* of a mortal career,  
 1830 To long-standing disease fell a victim this year  
 And his brother, King William the Fourth (the third son  
 Of his sire, George the Third), then ascended the throne.

1830

## WILLIAM IV.

THERE is little that need our attention engage  
 In his reign—for no bloodthirsty wars did he wage,  
 But devoted his mind to the national weal,  
 And for England's true interests laboured with zeal.

1832

In this year the Reform Bill was passed, and decreed  
 That a number of specified towns had no need  
 To send members to Parliament: others, again,  
 Of superior size, might the *franchise* retain;  
 And, in fine, that the king's poorer subjects might vote—  
 Which provision is very important to note.



HISTORY: As important, perhaps, is the statute which gave  
 The Consolation to many an over-worked slave ;  
 House of For this class (in the Colonies), pitied by all,  
 Hanover. A.D. Were by statute relieved from their barbarous thrall.  
 1833

Then, by natural causes, the king was borne down,  
 And he died in this year—leaving vacant the Crown  
 For his niece, the great Queen of whom still we are proud—  
 To whose rule for so long we have joyfully bow'd !

## VICTORIA.

1837

QUEEN VICTORIA, William's illustrious niece,  
 To the throne of her uncle succeeded in peace :  
 But the very first year of her reign she was grieved  
 By a rising of *Chartists*—rash men, who believed  
 That the " Commons " required reform—a belief  
 Which, however well-founded, soon brought them to grief.  
 They proposed a reorganisation complete  
 Of the old House of Commons : maintaining with heat  
*That all classes—by ballot—should vote ; while 'twas fit*  
*That in future each year should a Parliament sit ;*  
*That its members should all be rewarded, or paid,*  
*For affording the nation their counsel and aid ;*  
 And, in fine, the possession of riches, they thought,  
*Should be held, in electing the members, as nought.*  
 This reform, it is clear, was too sweeping—but yet  
 The *Five Points of the Charter* you must not forget.  
 Many riots took place, and some persons were killed,  
 But the hopes of the *Chartists* were never fulfilled :  
 The ringleaders were tried and condemned without  
 pause,

1840

And the rest were compelled to abandon the cause.

HISTORY: (Ere this date to send letters much money it cost—  
 The But this year was established the first *Penny Post*.)  
 House of  
 Hanover.

Now in India the fierce native princes of *Scinde*  
 And of *Gwalior*, too, against England combined :

A.D. But with *Napier* they found it was vain to compete,  
 1843 And at *Hyderabad* they were forced to retreat :  
 They were also defeated by *Grey* and by *Gough*,  
 Till of this sort of thing they had had quite enough.

1845 Two years after, the English with terror beheld  
 That the terrible *Sikhs* still remained to be quell'd :  
 1846 But, at *Aliwal*, *Smith* a great triumph obtained,  
 And by *Gough*, at *Sobraon*, a battle was gained  
 Which convinced the bold *Sikhs* that the struggle must  
 cease,  
 E'en should England dictate all the terms of the peace.

1848 But the strife recommenced : at *Ramnuggur* was fought  
 1849 A drawn battle : at *Chilianwallah* they brought  
 All their forces to bear on Lord *Gough*—but in vain :  
 While at *Goojerat* he was triumphant again ;  
 After which the *Punjab* was to England annexed  
 Nor with further attacks of the *Sikhs* was she vexed.

While these wars were proceeding the Irish rebelled—  
 By a wish for “ Repeal of the Union ” impelled ;  
 [1844] And their leader, one *Daniel O'Connell*, was tried  
 For conspiracy base—and sedition beside :  
 But the sentence his judges pronounced, it appears,  
 Was (no doubt for good reasons) reversed by the Peers.

Now the duty on *Corn* was a source of complaint  
 To the hard-working classes, who felt this restraint

- HISTORY: On the free importation of all kinds of wheat  
 The More severely than those who had plenty to eat.  
 House of *Richard Cobden* did much to procure the Repeal,  
 Hanover. For which object he worked with a praiseworthy zeal;  
 Till at last a great famine in Ireland arose  
 Which determined the powers no more to oppose  
 A.D. The despairing and heart-rending cry for "Repeal"—  
 [1846] And a bill for that purpose was carried by *Peel*.
- [1848] Then a great revolution in France—which soon led  
 To the Emperor, *Louis Napoleon* (now dead):
- 1851 Then the first Exhibition of Commerce and Trade,  
 And of Science and Art in all branches arrayed:—  
 Both these facts may lay claim to a cursory glance,  
 Though the former might seem to concern only France.
- Now the Turks, being threatened by Russia, prepared  
 1853 To resist her encroachments, and war was declared:  
 But the English and French (who perceived with disgust  
 The designs of the Russians) agreed 'twas but just  
 To assist the brave Turks in their hour of need,  
 And to check by strong measures the emperor's greed.
- Therefore England and France, with this friendly idea,  
 1854 Sent their armies and fleets to invade the *Crimea*:  
 Many battles they fought, at a terrible cost,  
 Although nearly the whole by the Russians were lost.  
 „ At the *Alma* the latter turned tail, to a man;  
 „ Then the siege of *Sebastopol* fairly began:  
 „ *Balaclava* was stormed: here Lord *Cardigan* made  
 His redoubtable "Charge of the Light Horse Brigade;"  
 „ Then the Russians from *Inkermann* strove to expel  
 1855 The Allies—but in vain: then *Sebastopol* fell;

HISTORY: Which event brought the terrible war to an end—  
 The House of Hanover. For now Austria showed in the light of a friend,  
 And advised the opponents their struggles to cease,  
 To let bygones be bygones and settle a peace.

A.D. This advice was accepted; and, shortly, we find  
 1856 That at Paris the requisite treaty was sign'd—  
 By which Russia agreed to leave Turkey unharmed,  
 And Sebastopol open—or, rather, *unarmed*.

The next stirring event was a mutiny dread  
 1857 Of the *Sepoys* in India—the cause, it is said,  
 Being merely the use of a cartridge prepared  
 For the “Enfield”—but greased (as the natives declared)  
 In a manner their faith could by no means allow—  
 With untouchable fat of the pig and the cow!  
 They believed, if they handled a cartridge so greased,  
 That the wrath of their gods could be never appeased;  
 And, in short, from a cause so absurd there arose  
 A most fearful revolt: for we well can suppose  
 That a native who fancied his *caste* was at stake  
 Would brave every danger, e'en death, for its sake.  
 1857 The insurgents stormed *Delhi*—and captured it too,  
 With its stores and munitions: at *Cawnpore* they slew  
 Many hundreds of English: when *Havelock's* name  
 To these bloodthirsty rebels a terror became.  
*Colin Campbell*, of glorious fame, was sent o'er,  
 And his valour and prudence did much to restore  
 The prestige of the English in India—although  
 We lack space into details more fully to go:  
 And, at last, by his resolute measures, the foe  
 Were compelled their rebellious designs to forego:  
 The revolt was suppressed, and a year was not o'er  
 1858 Ere our rule throughout India was firm as before.

HISTORY: The succeeding events of Victoria's reign  
 The House of Hanover. In the minds of our readers quite fresh must remain :—  
 First the war in America—which was decreed  
 When the Southern States sought from the North to  
*secede* :  
 Then the death of *Prince Albert*—who ever had been  
 As revered by the nation as loved by the Queen :  
 Then the marriage (to Denmark's well-gifted princess)  
 Of our own Prince of Wales—and long may he possess  
 Through the course of a happy and prosperous life  
 Such a worthy, accomplished, and beautiful wife !  
 Then the English o'erran *Abyssinian* soil,  
 And in brilliant success found reward for their toil :  
 Then the terrible war between Prussia and France  
 Was commenced (at its details we pause not to glance) :  
 Then the Irish Church Disestablishment Bill :  
 Then the war of the *Carlists* in Spain—raging still :  
 Then the great *Alabama Claims*, settled at length !  
 Then the war in Ashanti—which showed England's  
 strength  
 A.D. To the African tyrant :—there nought happened since  
 Jan. 23 }  
 1874 } Save the marriage of *Alfred*, our gallant young Prince  
 To the Russian Grand-Duchess *Marie*—whose great  
 worth  
 'Twere presumption in us to attempt to set forth !

Of these facts just the outlines are all we have shown—  
 To the bulk of our readers their details are known :  
 For the epoch in which they occurred is *our own*,  
 And Victoria still holds her seat on the throne :  
 Many years may she reign, 'midst the blessings of  
 peace  
 And of health and prosperity—ne'er may they cease

HISTORY:    Until Death claims his own : and then all we desire  
The            Is that Albert of Wales to her fame may aspire—  
House of     And keep England as happy, respected, and free  
Hanover.    As it ever has been in her life : and if *he*  
Strive as well for the national welfare as *she*—  
To be envied indeed all his subjects will be !

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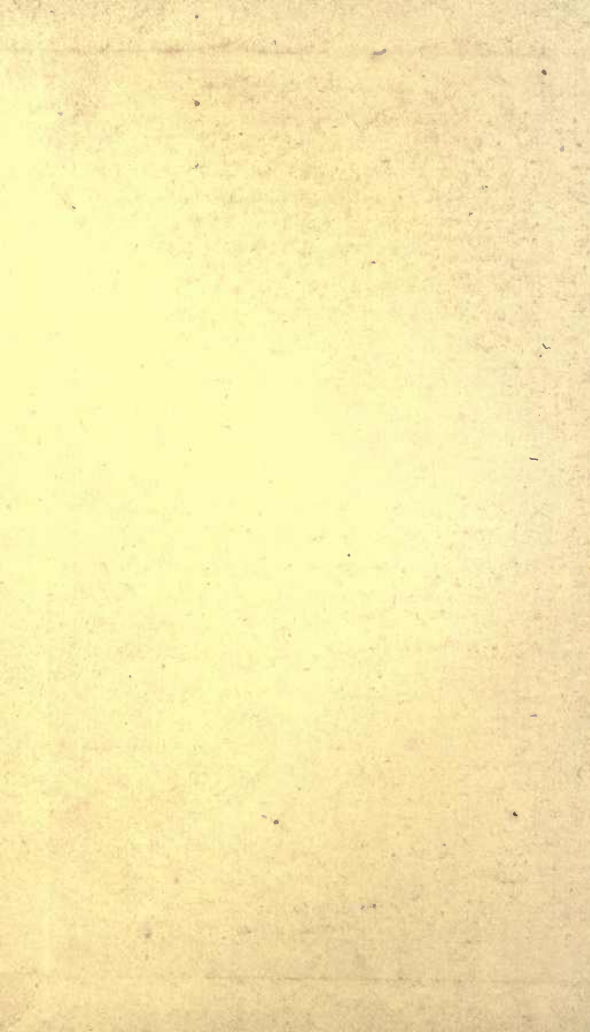
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